

Hafa Adai!

# Saipan Tribune

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## POLL RESULTS

Do you think the police are being too secretive in their investigation of crimes in the CNMI?

Yes 123

No 44

Somewhat 25

No opinion 6

Sunday, February 19, 2012

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### BUSINESS



At \$3.53 a gallon, prices are already up 25 cents since Jan. 1. And experts say they could reach a record \$4.25 a gallon by late April.

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The three Iranians detained in Bangkok and accused of plotting to attack Israeli diplomats set priorities during their trip to Thailand.

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After all the testimonials from relatives and friends, the songs from legends and pop stars, the preaching and even laughter, the raw emotion of Whitney Houston's funeral came down to just one moment: The sound of her own voice.

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Criminal offender registration pushed. PAGE 2  
COE firm on energy conservation policy. PAGE 3

## Another \$30M resort investment could fizzle

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

**A**nother planned investment to build a \$30-million, 300-room condominium-hotel resort in San Antonio may have already fizzled over lack of continued interest and commitment from the investor more than a year after the Department of Public Lands granted it temporary authorization to enter the property for land clearing and survey, among other things.

» As planned \$1B tourism complex in Marpi yet to submit documents to DPL

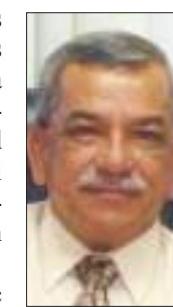
At the same time, DPL is still awaiting submission of requirements from Sunshine 100 which plans to invest some \$1 billion in a five-star hotel and high-rise residential and commercial condominium-resort in Marpi in 1 million square meters of public and private land.

Public Lands Secretary Oscar M. Babauta said DPL gave Pacific Investment and Development Corp.—pre-

viously Kevin International Corp.—30 days or until the end of this month to express continued interest in five hectares of land in San Antonio.

"We wrote a follow-up letter to Pacific Investment. If they are no longer interested in developing the site, we will move on to two other investors lined up and are interested in the same property," Babauta told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The same group of investors earlier See RESORT on Page 4



Babauta



## Sources: Ex-convict investigated in connection with Romero killing

### RELATED NEWS

Inos: Selective media preference not administration's policy.

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Eduardo Relata, left, helps carry the coffin of his slain sister, Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero, after a special Mass and public viewing at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan last Friday. Romero's remains were flown to the Philippines on Saturday morning aboard a Delta Air Lines flight via Japan.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Detectives are investigating an ex-convict in connection with the killing of bartender Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero, sources disclosed yesterday.

nightclubs.

Romero and the ex-convict possibly knew each other, sources said.

Detectives, sources said, have tried to verify information that the ex-convict's car was seen at the Marianas Resort area between Feb. 5 and 6, 2012.

It was not clear whether something substantial came out during the investigation of the ex-convict last week, a source said.

See EX-CONVICT on Page 4

## Kilili breaks down Interior funding for CNMI in FY 2013

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) has helped break down President Barack Obama's proposed U.S. Interior funding for the CNMI in fiscal year 2013, including \$12.5 million in Office of Insular Affairs technical assistance grants and \$8.7 million in capital improvement



project funding.

Sablan said the specific amount for CIP is not set by Congress, "but is the result of a performance-based competitive system."

Annual CIP funding for the CNMI has been on a steady drop in the past few years.

In FY 2005, the CNMI's See KILILI on Page 4

# Local



## PCB-CONTAMINATED SOIL

Two men work on an excavation site in I-Denni on Capital Hill where soil contaminated with PCB and metals such as lead are being removed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and its contractor/subcontractors. Photo shows a stockpile of lead-tainted soil awaiting transport to Marpi landfill and jumbo white sacks of PCB-contaminated soil that will be shipped to Nevada for proper disposal.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

After a Sex Offender Registry now comes a proposal to also set up a Criminal Offender Registry.

Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota) introduced a bill that seeks to require convicted felons to register for the purpose of tracking them and providing notification to the public of the presence of convicted felons.

Senate Bill 17-98, which the Senate may pass on Thursday, said the registry will be an important help to law enforcement agencies, the public and communities if a person engages in criminal conduct.

"The registration is intended to aid law enforcement agencies in timely apprehending suspected repeat offenders.

Inos: Selective media preference not administration's policy

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
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REPORTER

Acting governor Iloy S. Inos said it is not the administration's policy to select members of the media who should attend a press conference.

"If it's a press conference, it's a press conference. Not only the members of the media but any member of the public who is interested in getting updates should be welcomed," Inos said.

Department of Public Safety Commissioner Ramon Mafnas conducted a press conference last Monday, Feb. 13, regarding the ongoing investigation into the killing of bartender Emerita "Emie" Relata Romero.

Saipan Tribune and KSPN2 reporters were only present at the press conference as Mafnas said he does not want *Variety* police's beat reporter Andrew De Guzman to be there. Mafnas said he wants instead *Variety*'s reporters Emmanuel T. Erediano and Tammy Doty. Erediano and Doty did not come.

On Thursday, Mafnas conducted a press conference regarding Romero's case. KSPN2 reporter Tina Sablan and *Variety* reporter Tammy Doty were invited.

After learning about the then ongoing press confer-

Registration is not a punishment, but merely a status," the bill says.

Under Taimanao's bill, any person who has been convicted of a crime in any federal court or in any court or state other than the CNMI, or of any foreign state or country, which crime if committed in the CNMI would be a felony, shall within 48 hours after entering the CNMI register with the Department of Public Safety.

The CNMI already has a Sex Offender Registry, which requires those convicted of sexual crime to register as a sex offender. There are 134 registered sex offenders in the CNMI but some of them are no longer required to register after meeting the 10-year requirement. Some are off-island, some are deceased, and others are in prison.

ence, *Saipan Tribune* called Police Officer Jason Tarkong to ask why this reporter was not informed about the press conference.

Tarkong said he's not aware of the press conference as Mafnas did not invite even him.

Tarkong is coordinator for NMI Crime Stoppers Program. Mafnas has been assigning him to do press releases for DPS.

Mafnas told Sablan that apparently they tried to call *Saipan Tribune*, but could not get hold of this reporter.

Last November, Mafnas also conducted a press conference, but he invited only all female reporters—Sablan, Doty, and *Saipan Tribune*'s Haidee Eugenio.

Tarkong then apologized, saying the commissioner instructed him that he does not want *Variety*'s De Guzman and this reporter to be present at the press conference.

Asked about Mafnas' selective preference, Inos on Friday said if it's a press conference, every member of the media is invited to participate.

"It's not a personal preference. We don't bring personal preference into the job," Inos emphasized.

The acting governor said he needs to discuss this matter with Mafnas.



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# COE firm on energy conservation policy

## » Across-the-board enforcement strictly in effect, revision not an option

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
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REPORTER

Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that the energy conservation directive she issued early this month will stand and there's no way she will revise or cancel it at this time.

Starting on Feb. 6, an across-

the-board policy was implemented by the Public School System which reduced the number of air-conditioning consumption in all public schools and offices in three islands. Early dismissal of classes in the elementary was also ordered including the shutting down of energy during weekends to save on costs.

Since its enforcement, Sablan

said PSS has noted a 33-percent savings in its utility cost.

In an earlier report to the education board, PSS finance director Richard Waldo disclosed that monthly utility consumption of the system amounts to \$400,000. The commissioner told *Saipan Tribune* that she targets to see at least 40 percent utility savings from the new directive.

"No one is exempted from energy conservation and cost-saving measure including the Board of Education and central offices. Everyone must adhere to the directive. I don't have any plan to revise this directive until I see cash flowing in [for PSS] and as far as I am concerned, right now I don't have any timeline," she told *Saipan Tribune*.

Since the directive's implementation, the commissioner admitted receiving complaints from some schools due to the adjustments made to the air-conditioning use which is from 10am up to 2pm for elementary, while for secondary schools and PSS administrative offices it is from 10am to 3pm.

Sablan appealed to staffers and teachers to continue to bear the little sacrifice for the school

system. "I asked everyone to sacrifice a little bit because at the end of the day it's really about everyone's benefits. Again, I do ask parents, teachers, and staff to help endure this because we're doing it for a reason," the commissioner said.

Sablan revealed that if PSS will go without ACs, the system can save by 75 percent in its utility cost.

Prior to the commissioner's directive, it was disclosed by PSS officials that despite some energy conservation efforts implemented in all public schools, monthly billing for each school's consumption continues to yield a higher charge. As of November 2011 billings alone, it shows that schools incurred about \$400,000 monthly charge—an amount significantly higher than what was expected and recorded in previous months.

If this continues, PSS will incur \$4.8 million in power cost until the end of fiscal year.

PSS, under the budget allocation for fiscal year 2012, was provided only \$30 million of which \$28 million will be utilized in paying for personnel salary while \$2 million for operation and all others and this include utilities.

It was learned that PSS is making a monthly payment of approximately \$100,000 to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

McDonald's Saipan general manager Marcia Ayuyu discusses with elementary school principals in the Public School System the mechanics of this year's fundraiser which aims to benefit the schools in their immediate needs for student learning. Also in photo is Education Commissioner Dr. Rita A. Sablan during the group's meeting Thursday at the fastfood restaurant's Middle Road branch.

A. Sablan expressed her excitement about the campaign.

"This is a big project and I am sure our schools are excited to go out and make this a big fundraiser for their schools for the things they need. Given the limited cash that we have in the local budget, I think this is an opportunity for every school to raise funds to buy some of the things they are not able to get with the federal funds," she told *Saipan Tribune*, adding that these needs range from student supplies, to students and teachers incentives, to cleaning sup-

plies and other needs.

The commissioner said that PSS has approximately 5,000 students in the elementary level. "If all our 5,000 kids go out and bring their families with them, I am sure they can really help our schools through this fundraiser," she added.

For newly installed Oleai Elementary School principal Jack Sablan the campaign will be a great help in addressing the other needs of the students. If lucky in winning the competition, he vowed to utilize the funds to get additional reading materials and

some sports equipment for the children.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School principal Charlotte Camacho, for her part, wants to use the funds in procuring books and other materials for the school library.

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## Land-valuation project begins in Vanuatu

**P**ORT VILA, Vanuatu (Vanuatu Daily Post/PIR)—The Department of Lands (DOL) has embarked on a comprehensive large scale field data collection on all properties within Port Vila and Luganville to improve property and land market value data.

This is the first since 1980.

As the information collected will be beneficial both to the individual owner(s) and the DOL, all residents in both Municipal zones are encouraged to cooperate.

"We appeal to the public and call for support when you see our officers," said DOL's Acting Director Peter Pata.

"If you see them in your yard cooperate as they will explain what they are there to do. Basically they will measure your house to get an idea of the dimension of your house, the material used and so on. The purpose of the field data collection is to improve property and land market value in the DOL and

update and maintain a sustainable valuation database system. We do not have many Agriculture leases in the Municipal zone but all Industrial, Commercial, Residential and Special leases on State land will be subject to this important exercise."

The Mama Graon Project (MGP) has set the wheels in motion to this Vanuatu government initiated project which is implemented through the Valuation Assessment Unit in the DOL.

The DOL acting Director said since 1980 the DOL has been weak when it comes to valuation of properties and struggled with data. But this will now change after the MGP picked up the proposal and the DOL Valuation team is committed to seeing results in 2012.

"Port Vila and Luganville developments have reached an extent where the DOL sees it is necessary to compile all necessary information on buildings in the two towns, firstly in Port

Vila. The Field data on properties will be compiled in one database managed by the DOL Valuation Unit," he said. It will be a big assistance to the DOL, Property Taxes paid to the Municipal and such information are supposed to be supplied by the Lands Valuation team so this will enhance the Municipal records and data as well."

"We are targeting the valuation of properties, today if someone was to ask us about the value of a property in Vila it would be difficult to give an accurate answer but with the data collection project it will change. With such a Database in place if the government wishes to make a review or decision making on Port Vila's Property Market then the DOL will be in a position to provide the required information."

This exercise kicked off in the northern Municipal outskirts in the Switi area yesterday and the Land valuers will work from

there all the way down to Pango.

DOL's senior Valuation Officer, Richard Dick, explained the strategy undertaken generally involves four field workers who will be working under one supervisor to do physical assessment and data collection in the field.

This, he said, will be from property to property, street to street and suburb to suburb as the target is to collect all necessary information about leased properties in Port Vila.

Government Land Valuer Rocky Adams assured that all information collected will be kept confidential and used solely for work requirements.

The DOL is required to undertake this activity under the Valuation Land Act Section 31 and Section 32 and therefore is calling on all lease holders in the Port Vila urban area to cooperate and support the field officers in their work.

The time frame for the Data Collection is eight months commencing this month.

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**IN LIEU OF UNPAID LAND COMPENSATION**

# Rota landowners seek offsetting of CUC bills

**By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**  
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REPORTER

Some Rota private landowners are demanding offsetting of power and water

## PNG landslide clean-up marred by misinformation

**WELLINGTON, New Zealand** (RNZI/PIR)—There is growing frustration over the official response to last month's Tumbi landslide last month in Papua New Guinea's Southern Highlands province.

In its initial assessment report, the National Disaster Centre identifies heavy rainfall as the trigger for the landslide which is believed to have killed at least 25 people.

However speculation over the role in this disaster of the Tumbi quarry, used by Exxon Mobil for its major Liquefied Natural Gas project, refuses to die away.

Johnny Blades reports:

A National Disaster Committee-led crisis management team this week began clearing the massive area of mud and debris left by the landslide.

However, the local community has reportedly blocked access to the site several times, due to their demands for compensation and an independent probe into the disaster.

Hela landowner Joseph Warai says there remains a lack of communication from the government about what's happening:

"They announced an independent investigation but what sort of, what form of, what type of investigation they were talking about is not very clear. No minister, or no one, has delivered a media statement about the government's intention on the investigation team in terms of reference for the investigation team. So far there has not been anything raised. So there is a certain level of compromise. And Exxon Mobil seems to be very quiet on this matter."

He says government and disaster officials, as well as police and military, have told locals that the 10 million kina [US\$4.7 million] in disaster response funding promised by the government was conditional on the road being cleared.

Disaster officials say there is no

bills in exchange for the CNMI government's non-payment of land compensation involving the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s use of private lands to access their facilities, Rep. Teresita

Santos (Ind-Rota) and two families said yesterday.

Their request to CUC for offsetting is in lieu of a planned lawsuit against the government over unpaid land

money allocated for compensation, clearing of the road is the priority.

The PNG Coordinator for the International State Crime Initiative and Lecturer in Criminology at the University of Ulster, Kristian Lasslett says Exxon Mobil is under a lot of pressure to meet the target date for start of production in 2014.

"And these sort of hiccups like the landslide, I think, are raising warning sirens for Exxon's management, for Exxon's investors and partners; and to that end, I would speculate that there would be a lot of concerns if a serious investigation is undertaken and there is found to be a degree of negligence on the operator's part with the Tumbi quarry, it could cause further delays with the project which could obviously have potentially quite significant economic effects on Exxon Mobil."

Last March, the Tumbi quarry was declared unsafe by the project's Independent Environmental and Social Consultant, D'Appolonia SPA.

The Consultant found that contractors building the project's Komo airfield, for which the quarry was being used, were behind schedule.

Also, the project's risk assessment practices were found to be failing after a mudslide occurred at the project's Hides Gas Conditioning Plant site in the same area in late 2010.

The former superintendent of Tumbi Quarry has defended its safety record.

Kevin Munday managed the quarry for MCJV, a joint venture between McConnell Dowell and Consolidated Contracting, until the quarry's closure last September.

"MCJV were pretty good at looking after Tumbi quarry. We always had geologists down there looking at it. We always had environmentalists down there looking at it. In that respect, we didn't let that part of it slip. Managing the new quarry faces that we put in, we

could have done it in a rushed format – we didn't. But at no time was I directed by MCJV to take risks or cut corners to get material out quicker."

Claims persist by locals that blasting at a local quarry caused the landslide.

Kevin Munday says explosives were never used at the Tumbi quarry, but says another nearby quarry used for the project did use explosives.

He says the part of the Tumbi quarry lost in the landslide was not the part which his team had been excavating.

"At the bottom of the quarry there, at the old excavation area, there's two massive rivers that flow out of that old quarry face, and what I believe has happened is that prior to the landslide giving way, those two rivers have been blocked somehow, whether it's caused by the blast or a natural ground movement or whatever... What I believe has happened is those waterways have been blocked in some shape or form; the water's built up behind there and just finally given way, how water does. Even ground vibrations from a blast wouldn't be enough to block up those rivers, I don't believe. I believe it's an act of God or an act of nature. But the locals are very quick to ask for compensation no matter what, and I'm picking that's what it's all about, if you know what I mean."

Yet, Joseph Warai says landowners in Tumbi insist that activities at the project quarry had already changed the way water flowed down the mountain.

"CCJV and MCJV have done several drillings on that mountain including use of chemicals and blasting – that's according to local sources already. And they are saying that their mountain has never collapsed before - they've been living there for six hundred years - and this is the first of its kind. And they say what has triggered the landslide is the blasting and drilling of Tumbi quarry."

The CNMI's rate of CIP money expenditure is at 36 percent, a slight improvement from 32 percent the previous year but still below the 50 percent threshold.

The Interior's proposed FY 2013 budget for the CNMI also includes \$3 million for brown tree snake control and \$1 million for the coral reef initiative. Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta asked Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to exempt these two programs from the austerity measures or the 16-hour work cut every two weeks.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said on Friday that the Fitial administration has yet to make a decision on exempting federal-funded positions from work hour cuts. Fitial is currently off-island and won't be back until March 5.

Interior funding also includes \$3 million for the Empowering Insular Communities initiative.

The \$12.5 million for OIA's technical assistance grants is proposed for the following: Close Up, \$1.1 million; Junior Statesmen, \$350,000); Prior

Service Benefits Program, \$1 million, the Bureau of Economic Analysis for continuing its work on island gross domestic product, \$600,000; Judicial training, \$320,000; and the CNMI Ombudsman's Office, \$250,000.

"In general these funds are shared among the four smaller U.S. insular areas," said Sablan.

There is also a new \$5 million set aside for the impact of Freely Associated States immigrants on education systems in American Samoa, Guam, Hawaii, and the CNMI under Obama's proposed budget submitted on Monday.

Two days later, the House Natural Resources Committee, on which Sablan sits on, held an oversight hearing on Interior's budget.

"Among other issues, Secretary Ken Salazar and I discussed working together to find solutions to the critical needs of the Commonwealth Health Corporation, and how the Department will fulfill its commitment for a Marianas Trench Marine National Monument visitor center," Sablan said.

compensation.

For a few weeks now, one of the landowners' families has blocked access to a road leading to a major tank owned by CUC in Talakhaya. But the family later on allowed limited access to the road, including to CUC personnel treating the water at the tank in Talakhaya.

"What we ask is for CUC to offset our water and power bills, and also a \$30 charge to connect to CUC water in the Talakhaya area," the family of Ana Taimanao, 80, who owns a property in Talakhaya, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

The family member said CUC has been giving one of their family members a hard time applying for a \$30 water connection, when CUC or the government has not even compensated them for using their property to access the Talakhaya water tank.

Santos, for her part, wrote a letter to CUC executive director Abe Malae on Friday, telling him of some Rota landowners' request but CUC has yet to respond to such request.

CUC has been using portions of private lands for sewer line, water line, access to waterline, and installations of power and/or telephone poles and other structures, the lawmaker said.

"On top of charging late payment fees and penalty charges to utility consumers not paying in a timely manner, it is ironic that CUC enjoys the benefits of using private parcels while some private landowners are not fairly benefiting from CUC's use of private property," she said.

utilization of their private property," Santos told Malae.

The lawmaker said these landowners "have yet to be compensated by the CNMI government whose properties the CUC established its utilities or use private roads on private land to access CUC utility easements."

Santos said for so long, Rota private landowners have asked for just and reasonable compensation, including requesting CUC "to offer some kind of fair trade such as adjustments to billings or offsetting utility charges but to no avail."

"The patience of private landowners is becoming grim and may soon seek litigation that will be costly to both CUC and the CNMI government. Thus, it is high time and mandatory that CUC addresses this critical and urgent issue in the form of reasonable compensation. In the interim, it would be of great service for the CUC to offer billing adjustments or offsetting of billings to all landowners in the CNMI affected in one way or another by CUC's use of private property," she said.

In an interview yesterday, Santos said to date, there has been no monetary compensation or land exchange provided to any of those private landowners who have brought up the issue to her attention.

"For your information, consummation of all land exchanges is based on the fair market value of the land. To determine how much compensation each private landowner should get, appraisal should first be conducted," she said.

## EX-CONVICT

**From Page 1**

Other sources, however, stated that there are also rumors that the ex-convict may have information about the killer.

Sources also disclosed that investigators have narrowed down the suspect's car as a Toyota sedan.

*Saipan Tribune* opted not to disclose the model so not to jeopardize the ongoing authorities' investigation.

Romero was last seen alive boarding a green or blue tinted sedan around 3am on Feb. 5 near her residence in Garapan.

During a search, FBI agents found her body two days later in the northernmost building of the former La Fiesta Mall in San Roque.

Romero's remains were flown to the Philippines on Saturday morning aboard a Delta Air Lines flight via Japan. Romero's siblings, Eduardo Relata and Estrellita "Lhet" Relata, accompanied the body.

proposed to build a hotel with villas and condotels. The KSA project did not materialize, resulting in DPL's termination of the public land lease in June 2008.

## Sunshine 100

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos expressed high hopes for Sunshine 100's investments in the CNMI, saying the investments could be \$1 billion.

"Hopefully that thing will happen this year. It will be a big help to the CNMI economy," Inos said, adding that the project will complement Saipan Air's services.

DPL's Babauta, for his part, said the four-phased project includes a five-star hotel in the former location of Far East Broadcasting overlooking the western coast of Saipan.

The project will also include high-rise residential and commercial condominiums targeting high-end markets.

The project area encompasses the site formerly leased by Flame Sako north of The Palms Resort all the way to Wing Beach and on to the former Far East Broadcasting location.

## KILILI

**From Page 1**

CIP funding was \$12.5 million. Five years later or in FY 2010, it was \$11 million, before going down to \$10 million in FY 2011, \$9.5 million in FY 2012, and then to \$8.7 million in FY 2013.

Sablan, in a separate letter to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, said the Section 702 CIP grant represents only about 5 percent of all federal grant funds that the CNMI has been receiving. He said in FY 2010 alone, the CNMI received a total of \$190 million.

"Nevertheless, we can ill afford this 30 percent drop in Covenant Funds between 2005 and 2013 so long as the need for 24-hour potable water, affordable power, solid waste facilities on Rota and Tinian, and adequate schools remain," Sablan told Fitial, as he warned the governor about the risk faced by the CNMI in losing CIP money if it continues to have a CIP funding expenditure rate of below 50 percent.

# Lawmaker wants creation of Tinian Stevedoring Division

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO  
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REPORTER

Senate Vice President Jude Hofsneider (R-Tinian) pre-filed last Friday a local bill that would establish a Tinian Stevedoring Division within the Office of the Tinian Mayor, four months since the island lost the

services of a private firm, Tinian Stevedore, that loads and offloads vessels at its port.

Hofsneider, chairman of the four-member Tinian Legislative Delegation, said it may be more expensive to commission a private stevedoring firm than to establish an entity in the mayor's office to perform stevedoring functions.

"In the absence of anyone in the private sector providing these vital services, the Tinian Legislative Delegation finds it necessary to establish a stevedoring function within the office of the Tinian Mayor," he said.

Rep. Trenton Conner (R-Tinian), in a separate interview,

said last Friday he supports the bill's intent.

Conner, one of the shareholders of the now closed Tinian Stevedore, said he believes this approach intends to have the government provide the stevedoring service initially and if in the future

has yet to see the bill.

He said Tinian Stevedore, which ceased operation on Oct. 31, tried to stay in business but the operational costs were just too high and the volume of cargo coming in was too small.

Under Hofsneider's Senate Local Bill 17-5, the proposed division will be managed by a director that the Tinian mayor appoints with the advice and

consent of the Tinian Municipal Council.

The director is responsible for providing the necessary services to load and offload vessels at the ports on Tinian, establish and impose charges for stevedoring services, and enter into contracts and hire employees to provide stevedoring services.

The director will also have the authority to control all funds appropriated by the Tinian Legislative Delegation, the CNMI government or the Tinian Stevedoring Division.

## WIA readies for 2012 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program

The Workforce Investment Agency has begun preparations for the upcoming 2012 Summer Youth Employment and Training Program. Applications will be ready by March 1, 2012 at www.wia.gov.mp, Hopwood Jr. High School, Saipan Southern High School, Marianas High School, Kagman High School, Chacha Junior High School, and all WIA offices on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Summer employment qualifications are not based on the application submission date but on priority index ranking (PIR) based on age, income, federal statutory and state recognized applicant barriers. The higher the PIR, the more qualified the individual will be under WIA's program rules and regulations.

WIA is providing suffi-

cient time for parents and applicants to gather all the required documents, read, follow instructions and answer the application clearly and legibly, as well as affix all required signatures on the applications. This year's summer program is expected to qualify CNMI wide a total of 300 youth participants working for a period of four weeks or from July 2 to 27, 2012 for the first phase and from July 30 to Aug. 24, 2012 for the second phase (Saipan only) should placement slots prove insufficient during the first phase.

Due to limited funding and in the interest of accommodating others that are wait-listed, WIA reserves the right to replace trainees for any reason as soon as their slots become available and will

not allow interchanging of phase schedules for trainees that can't hold their initial placement schedule. If additional funding is realized then more qualifying youths will be given the opportunity to participate in the summer program and will be published accordingly.

Names and schedules will be published the week of June 18, 2012 in the local papers and WIA's website at www.wia.gov.mp. Work readiness workshops are scheduled for June 25-27, 2012 (Saipan), June 28, 2012 (Tinian), and June 29, 2012 (Rota). All summer qualifiers are required to attend the workshops. Application deadlines are March 29, 2012 (Rota and Tinian) and April 30, 2012 (Saipan). Incomplete applications will not be accepted nor certified. (PR)

The scheduled sentencing on Friday of Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, a former detention guard who pleaded guilty to enticing a minor girl offense, did not push through as the federal reset the hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona vacated Friday's sentencing of Fitial and reset the sentencing on March 23, 2012 at 1:30pm.

Manglona set the new sentencing date after attorney Michael Evangelista, counsel for Fitial, requested on Wednesday for continuance of the sentencing as he (Evangelista) was at the time in a jury trial in the Superior Court.

Evangelista said he has spoken with assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons who does not oppose his request.

Manglona postponed the Oct. 11, 2011 sentencing of Fitial due to the defendant's objections to the pre-sentence investigation report.

Manglona set the new sentencing date for Nov. 30, 2011 at 9am. But this was postponed again for some reasons.

Last Sept. 1, Manglona also granted Fitial's request to postpone his Sept. 13, 2011 sentencing. The judge then set the sentencing for Oct. 11, 2011.

Fitial's original sentencing date was July 21, 2011. The court re-set the sentencing to Sept. 13, 2011 after the U.S. Probation asked for the delay in order to complete the pre-sen-

tence investigation report.

Fitial, a former detention guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit, pleaded guilty last April 19 to enticing a minor, but not the actual sexual penetration.

Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto said between October 2009 and February 2010, Fitial, who was then a guard at the Juvenile Detention Unit, made telephone calls to a residence, during which one or more of

these calls Fitial had a conversation of a sexual nature with a female 13 to 14 years old.

Benedetto said it was Fitial's intent to get the girl to meet with him and that she indicated her willingness to meet him. (Ferdie de la Torre)



**RETIREMENT FUND**  
*Investing for the future financial security of our members*

**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND  
WORKERS' COMPENSATION COMMISSION  
GROUP HEALTH AND LIFE INSURANCE TRUST FUND**

**FINANCIAL AUDITS  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. RF12-005**

**OPENING DATE: February 6, 2012**

The Board of Trustees of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund is soliciting sealed proposals to perform a financial audit of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF), Workers' Compensation Commission (WCC), and Group Health and Life Insurance Trust Fund (GHLITF) for the fiscal years ending September 30, 2011 and 2012. To receive the RFP package, you may mail, fax or e-mail your request to:

Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator  
Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund  
P.O. Box 501247 CK  
Saipan, MP 96950-1247  
Fax No. 670-664-8080  
E-mail: [administrator01@nmiretirement.com](mailto:administrator01@nmiretirement.com)

There will be a pre-proposal conference on Monday, February 13, 2012, at 9:00 am in the Fund Conference Room, Capitol Hill Saipan. Questions regarding the project must be submitted in writing to Richard S. Villagomez, Administrator, Fax No. (670) 664-8080 or emailed to [administrator01@nmiretirement.com](mailto:administrator01@nmiretirement.com), no later than February 16, 2012 at 4:30 p.m.

The Board reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in a proposal if doing so is the best interest of the Fund. All proposals shall become the property of the NMI Retirement Fund.

//s/ Richard S. Villagomez  
Administrator

  
Hofsneider

## Sentencing of ex-detention guard delayed again

The scheduled sentencing on Friday of Tyron Farley Reyes Fitial, a former detention guard who pleaded guilty to enticing a minor girl offense, did not push through as the federal reset the hearing.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona vacated Friday's sentencing of Fitial and reset the sentencing on March 23, 2012 at 1:30pm.

Manglona set the new sentencing date after attorney Michael Evangelista, counsel for Fitial, requested on Wednesday for continuance of the sentencing as he (Evangelista) was at the time in a jury trial in the Superior Court.

Evangelista said he has spoken with assistant U.S. attorney Clyde Lemons who does not oppose his request.

Manglona postponed the Oct. 11, 2011 sentencing of Fitial due to the defendant's objections to the pre-sentence investigation report.

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Fitial's original sentencing date was July 21, 2011. The court re-set the sentencing to Sept. 13, 2011 after the U.S. Probation asked for the delay in order to complete the pre-sen-



**Invitation for Bids  
IFB 12-GOV-037**



### Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 23, 2012**.

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **February 3, 2012**, at the CNMI Water Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, February 2, 2012**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked "**IFB12-GOV-037**". For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **February 21, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **February 21, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 21, 2012**, and must be received no later than **March 1, 2012**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 5, 2012**. However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:30 pm local time on **February 21, 2012**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/ Benigno R. Fitial  
Governor

/s/ Herman S. Sablan  
Director, Procurement & Supply

# CPA holds off paying new Fund's employer contribution

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority will hold off paying a higher employer contribution rate to the NMI Retirement Fund until the existing lawsuit between the central government and the pension agency is resolved.

CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero admitted this during a recent board meeting, arguing that the agency is still paying in a timely manner

what is mandated to be paid which is a 37-percent rate.

The Fund implemented a 61-percent employer contribution rate effective fiscal year 2012 which started in October last year. Deleon Guerrero said that now that the ports authority is party to the outstanding lawsuit between the Fund and the administration, it will wait for further determination from the court if it will allow the implementation to agencies of the new actuarial rate contribution.

CPA, and other independent agencies, filed a motion to intervene in the said case which was granted by the court. "We were granted by the court [to intervene] and as a result of that we are holding back on the 61 percent rate," said the executive director.

Deleon Guerrero expressed the agency's desire to transfer out from the pension program. However, he admitted that this will only be possible if a law will be established or through a court decision.

"We're hoping that something will happen—either the Legislature will come out with a new legislation that will cap on how much each department will pay [to the Fund] or the court decides," he said, adding that if the CPA will be allowed to move out from the Fund, the agency will look for another type of retirement program that would be suitable for its employees.

The executive director said CPA has a total of 188 personnel at present. These are

employees serving all ports and airports in Tinian, Saipan, and Rota. Since he assumed the post three years ago, Deleon Guerrero said he was able to bring down the personnel count. CPA, he said, has an approved 220 FTEs for FY 2012. Unlike employees in other government agencies and corporation, CPA personnel are enjoying the 80-hour work schedule and just recently, were approved by the board merit increases in their salary. This was a result of the agency's good

performance in meeting the required bond ratio for both airport and seaport.

Deleon Guerrero vowed that before any work hour reduction is implemented, CPA will first look at the other areas of its operation that can be streamlined or reduced.

The ports authority is an autonomous agency that received no funding assistance from the local appropriation. Its projects are mostly funded by the federal government and by its own revenues.

## College of Micronesia-FSM president calls on college to 'choose to be great'

**PAIKIR, Pohnpei**—Dr. Joseph Daisy, in a ceremony witnessed Tuesday by many of the senior leaders of the Federated States of Micronesia, became the fifth president of the College of Micronesia-FSM. At his investiture ceremony in Pohnpei on the national campus of COM-FSM, Daisy said the college will recommit itself to its and the nation's core values and reach for greatness.

"This important journey upon which we now embark will be perpetual. On this journey, let us confront our challenges and in all things, let us create our future. In all things, let us aspire. In all things, let us dream. In all things, let us choose. And in choosing, let us not choose just to be good, rather in all things let us choose to be great," Daisy told an estimated 600 people gathered at the college's FSM-China Friendship Sports Center.

Daisy, a native of Boston, Massachusetts who most recently was executive vice president at the private Cambridge College in the United States, has been an educator for 34 years. He also has significant experience as a senior staff member for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., a major regional academic accrediting agency. Daisy's dissertation for his doctorate in education degree was on the positive impact of accreditation on student learning.

The new college president used his investiture address as a rallying call to develop a broad, system-wide understanding of the value of accreditation at the college.

"We should fully and completely embrace accreditation as a framework for ongoing self assessment and improvement. Affirmation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges independently and objectively demonstrates that we not only meet high standards and provide quality higher education for our students, but that we continuously strive to become better," he said.

He emphasized that by developing a culture of self-assessment and continuous im-



College of Micronesia-FSM president Joseph M. Daisy delivers his investiture address while Board of Regents chair Kasio Mida, interim president Ringlen P. Ringlen, and representatives of the college community look on.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

provement, COM-FSM would better serve its students and the nation. "We must continue to strengthen the college's culture of assessment and accountability. We have a responsibility to internal and external stakeholders to demonstrate that we are successful; that we are making progress and are improving; and, that our students are learning and are successful. So let us actively engage as an institution in a continuous process of inquiry, reflection and self-assessment."

In his first formal address to the College of Micronesia community, Daisy acknowledged that there are many challenges facing the institution. But he also offered a path forward that, if followed, would lead College of Micronesia to a successful future.

"From accreditation, finances, communication, college readiness by students, geographic expanse, persistence to graduation; the challenges are many, the challenges are significant, the challenges are daunting, yet the challenges are not insurmountable," said the president.

"These challenges, large and small, known and yet to be known, immediate and emerg-

ing are critical to our building a secure future. Successfully confronting them will require the very best of each of us working together to marshal all of our, individual and collective intellectual and human capital and resources. Only together, and by that I mean everyone gathered here today, and members of our community dispersed across the country, will we be successful," said Dr. Daisy.

The president told the large crowd that he knew, first hand, the importance and power of earning a college degree. He said the experience changes lives for the better, and strengthens communities and the nation.

"As the first person in my family to graduate from college, I have experienced first-hand the life transforming and empowering impact of a college education. Education has the power to change lives exponentially. The impact of THIS college reaches not only to the students we serve, but to their families, to their communities, and to the country," he said.

Dr. Daisy assured the audience that he also understood the unique role College of Micronesia-FSM plays in the Federated States of Micronesia. It has an

important and unique mission, Dr. Daisy noted.

"The core idea that forms the Federated States of Micronesia is that islanders of different cultures, languages and traditions can find common ground. This nation is founded on the belief that its citizens can ensure a better future for themselves and their children by working together across linguistic and cultural divides," Dr. Daisy said. "Let us be mindful then, that the things that bind us together are far stronger than the things that divide us. This college binds us together."

Dr. Daisy earned his B.A. and M.Ed. from Suffolk University in Boston, MA. and his Ed.D. from Nova Southeastern University in Davie, FL. During his long career in education, he has served as a teacher, school principal, and college administrator. He also was a senior staff member on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, Inc., the academic accrediting body that oversees schools, colleges and universities in the northeast of the United States. Dr. Daisy was selected to be the president of the College of Micronesia-FSM following an

international search for a replacement for President Spenser James, who stepped down in 2011. (PR)

## Umang Glee Club raises \$10K, readies for Guam music fest

By MONETH G. DEPOSA  
moneth\_deposa@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Koblerville Elementary School's Umang Glee Club is all set for next month's Tumon Bay Music Festival in Guam after the group successfully raised needed funding to send its delegates.

Koblerville Elementary School principal Rizalina Purungan said the school was able to raise \$10,000 for the group's travel expenses to the event.

This year, 23 members of the music organization will compete in the competition's various categories and the group hopes to bring home the Sweepstakes Trophy—the prestigious title awarded to the overall winner of the entire festival. The honor was last bagged by Saipan Southern High School's Manta Ray Band, which will skip this year's festival.

Purungan said this year

marks the Umang Glee Club's second participation in the festival. Last year it bagged the second overall award.

Of the amount, the principal said the Public School System allocated \$7,000 for the group's travel, while the rest came from proceeds of the group's fundraising activities as well as prizes it bagged in on-island competitions like the Christmas in the Marianas festival where they bagged the top award.

For the food allowance of the group, the principal is optimistic that they can raise an additional \$2,000 before they fly to the competition scheduled from March 2 through March 11.

The Umang Glee Club is an exclusive music organization established in Koblerville Elementary School which aims to hone and enhance the musical talents of its students.

Purungan said that every year, the school opens recruitment to deserving students.

# MHS, Seisa High students celebrate Cultural Heritage Day

Over 100 students from Japan's Seisa High School joined Marianas High School students in their celebration of Cultural Heritage Day last Friday.

MHS student council president Vinni Orsini said this marked the school's 35th annual celebration of cultural day while it was the 26th year of the school's PAL, or the participate and learn cultural exchange program, with Japanese partners.

With the theme "One Heart, One Love, One Culture," Orsini lauded the strong immersion of two cultures for many years.

The daylong festivity on campus was highlighted by a parade of cultures and performances from different class and grade levels as well as fundraising booths that aim to generate some monies for the various school clubs.

During the celebration, freshmen students demonstrated Korean national costumes while Indian cultural attire was exhibited by the sophomores. Junior students also proudly showcased the African attire while seniors represented the Brazil culture.

According to Orsini, despite the absence of the traditional booth competition this year, overall turnout for the event was overwhelming and a big success. He said the

competition among school clubs and organizations was also conducted based on their performances while for food vendors, they were judged according to the type of food they sold and offered.

Orsini said there are a total of 110 Seisa High School students on island for a three-day vacation. They were seen enjoying moments with their local counterparts in both dancing and singing activities.

In her message to the attendees, MHS principal Cherlyn Cabrera welcomed all guests especially Japanese students who came for the occasion. (**Moneth G. Deposa**)



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Visiting students enjoy some dancing with their local counterparts in last Friday's cultural day festivities at the MHS campus.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Students of Japan's Seisa High School join Marianas High School students in celebrating Cultural Heritage Day last Friday at the MHS campus.



MONETH G. DEPOSA

Some students of Seisa High School show off their Japanese attire during the celebration.



**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-12-006, REV. #1

### Pipeline Project Management, Design & Construction Management Services for the 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline for Power Plant 1 & 2

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is resoliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project Management to include Design and Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish all labor, material and logistics associated with the Project Management Services including Design and Onsite Construction Management for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project. Tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies (including US EPA and/or US DOT). It is preferred that the contractor have the in-house capability and qualifications to perform all the functions required (i.e. - Project management to include Design and Construction Management services) and not subcontract any part to third party vendors.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8-inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8-inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to CUC Power Plants 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes. Design engineers are required to obtain the relevant licenses in CNMI, as per local professional licensing rules and regulations, details of which are available on the webpage, <http://cucnmi.net/>.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Court. The project is funded primarily by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs.

The Revised Scope-of-Work (SOW) will be e-mailed upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) (ChST-Chamorro Standard Time), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays. All other documentation can be downloaded from the website, <http://cucnmi.net/>.

**The response to this RFP** must be received with the title "PIPELINE PROJECT MANAGEMENT, DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE" and **shall only be sent** to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via e-mail to [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via e-mail to [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org) no later than **Wednesday, February 29, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** local time and the equivalent time of **Tuesday February 28, 2012, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. Late submissions and other means of submission will not be considered. A return receipt for the email must be requested and received by the proposer to ensure that the email transmission has been received by the deadline, by CUC.

All inquiries and clarifications must be submitted in writing no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM ChST**, and the equivalent time of Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org); and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org). CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation. All interested parties including those who have participated in the recently closed RFP are requested to also register through the website - <http://cucnmi.net/> or e-mailing their request to Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) and Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org), no later than **Wednesday, February 22, 2012, 10:00 AM (ChST)** local time or the equivalent time of **Tuesday, February 21, 4:00 PM Pacific Standard Time**. CUC requires all the proposers to send their questions in writing so that the responses can also be made available to all the interested vendors, well in time.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
Office of the Executive Director



## INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-12-007

### SAN VICENTE SERVICE AREA EXTENSION, EXPLORING DRIVE-FINA SISU & HERMAN'S BAKERY WATERLINE REPLACEMENT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded through a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

The project consists, in general of the extension of the San Vicente water service area to Dandan Village and the replacement of existing water distribution line from Exploring Drive to Fina Sisu and Herman's Bakery including appurtenances.

The proposed project will also include the installation of fire hydrants, air relief valves, blow-off-valves, new service lateral stub-outs and reconnection of existing service laterals to the new water distribution line.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

The Bid Package and Scope-of-Work may be picked-up, upon receipt of a deposit from the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$ 350.00 for one set; at the CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit will be held on **February 9, 2012 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.10, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building in Dandan, Saipan.

**One (1) original and Seven (7) copies** must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-12-007, San Vicente Service Area Extension, Exploring Drive-Fina Sisu & Herman's Bakery Waterline Replacement Project" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 4, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on March 06, 2012**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before the submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission.

A Bid Guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. A Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC. A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands or otherwise secured in a manner satisfactory to CUC, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification be should handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 27, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Purchasing Officer, via email [manny.sablan@cucgov.org](mailto:manny.sablan@cucgov.org) with a copy to Larry Manacop, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email [larry.manacop@cucgov.org](mailto:larry.manacop@cucgov.org) or Yvonne Cabral, Water/Wastewater Engineer via email [yvonne.cabral@cucgov.org](mailto:yvonne.cabral@cucgov.org) and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – [mika.muna@cucgov.org](mailto:mika.muna@cucgov.org).

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ ABE UTU MALAE  
Executive Director

## Bordallo questions Panetta about realignment

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week addressed proposed modifications to the realignment of Marine Corps forces in the Pacific, during an oversight hearing of the House Armed Services Committee on the Department of Defense budget for Fiscal Year 2013.

The congresswoman requested that Secretary of Defense, Leon Panetta, explain the rationale behind the new implementation plan and how it would enhance the U.S. strategic posture in the region. Under Secretary of Defense, Robert F. Hale, and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, also testified at the hearing today.

The congresswoman inquired about the foundation for changes to the realignment roadmap,

and what role, if any, the Budget Control Act played in these decisions. She expressed concern that re-opening negotiations with the Japanese government may result in a reduced overall contribution to the build-up, based on the decision to de-link the realignment from the issue of the Futenma Replacement Facility; given this possibility, she asked how the Department would meet Guam's infrastructure needs.

Bordallo also inquired about unobligated funds already received from the government of Japan and what steps the Department was taking to meet the requirements needed to spend these funds.

Panetta noted that a final agreement has not been reached between the administration and the Japanese

government and that the DoD continues to work out the details of the proposed changes. He did, however, stress that it is critical for the Marine Corps to maintain a forward presence in the region to ensure regional and national security.

Panetta pledged to continue to work with the congresswoman as the revised agreement with Japan is finalized.

"I appreciate the administration's continued focus on the Asia-Pacific region, and I am pleased that the Department of Defense is working on ways to press forward with military build-up on Guam," said Bordallo. "Secretary Panetta reaffirmed the Administration's support for the realignment, and reiterated that DoD continues to work with the Government of Japan to finalize the plan. He

emphasized the strategic importance of maintaining a forward Marine presence in the Pacific, and said that the Administration is developing a plan that includes a rotational presence of Marines that is able to respond to crises in our region. However, I cautioned that I remain seriously concerned about any proposals to have predominantly rotational forces on Guam. A reduced number of Marines does address some concerns in the community, but we should be cautious about saving money on military construction while increasing other operating costs for the Marines. I will continue to work with my colleagues and the Obama Administration to closely scrutinize the details of the proposed realignment plan as they become available." (PR)

## ...addresses OIA funding for FY13 at budget hearing

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—Congresswoman Madeleine Z. Bordallo last week questioned Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar during a hearing of the Natural Resources Committee on the Department of the Interior's budget for Fiscal Year 2013.

The congresswoman discussed the Obama Administration's request for discretionary Compact Impact funding of \$5 million beyond the \$30 million in mandated annual Compact Impact assistance, to fund grants to jurisdictions affected by the consequences of migrants from the Freely Associated States (FAS).

Bordallo, who supports the implementation of a comprehensive mitigation plan, dia-

logued with Secretary Salazar on how the funds will be used in affected jurisdictions. Deputy Secretary David J. Hayes also testified at the hearing today.

She also inquired about the president's recently-announced National Travel and Tourism Strategy, and how the inter-agency task force, co-chaired by Secretary Salazar and the Secretary of Commerce, would address the needs of the territories in its recommendations to the President.

Secretary Salazar testified that Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta has been working with various leaders in the territories and with the governments of the FAS. He noted that Assistant Secretary Babauta is

working with the governors of the territories and will convene his first meeting on the implementation plan in March. Secretary Salazar also reaffirmed the Administration's support of H.R. 44, the Guam World War II Loyalty Recognition Act.

"The Administration continues to recognize that the Compacts of Free Association place significant burdens on the affected jurisdictions, and I appreciate that the President has requested \$5 million additional in funding to help mitigate the effects of Compact migration," said Congresswoman Bordallo. "The implementation of a comprehensive mitigation plan is an important first step toward reducing the burden the

Compacts have placed on our community, and I look forward to working with Assistant Secretary Tony Babauta and other local leaders in the Pacific to address this issue.

"I also appreciate the Administration's focus on developing a National Travel and Tourism Strategy to better promote America as a travel destination. Guam stands to benefit from this new initiative, and I will continue to work with the Administration to expand the Guam-CNMI visa waiver program to include visitors from China. I also appreciate the continued and strong support of this Administration for finally resolving the matter of Guam war claims." (PR)

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### Kagman High PTSA meeting set

Kagman High School PTSA meeting on Feb. 23, 2012, from 5:30pm to 6:30pm at the school's cafeteria. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend. For more information, call the main office at 237-3840. (PR)

#### NCD community meeting this Wednesday

The public is invited to the NCD Community Meeting scheduled next week Wednesday, Feb. 22, at 6:30pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe.

The premise for this meeting is to engage the community to respond to the burden of non-communicable diseases on our people and to get input from the community on the support needed in order to make successful steps forward.

There will also be a meeting on Saturday, Feb. 25, at 10am (venue to be determined) for those who cannot make it to the Wednesday meeting.

Contact the Division of Public Health at 236-8703 if you have any questions. (PR)

#### SVES Annual Canary Walkathon

The Parent, Teacher, Students Association of San Vicente Elementary School will be hosting the Annual Canary Walkathon on Saturday, Feb. 25, 2012, at the SVES baseball field, from 7am until noon. The public is invited to join to promote a healthier lifestyle for parents, students, and the community. PTSA members have been soliciting support for the event and welcome all donations both monetary and in-kind. For more information, call the school at (670) 237-3791/3 or 237-3761. (PR)

#### Health Care Professions Licensing Board meeting

The Health Care Professions Licensing Board hereby notifies the general public that it will be holding its board meeting on Wednesday, Feb. 22, 2012, at 3pm. The meeting will be held

at conference room No. 3 at the Dr. Jose T. Villagomez Center for Public Health and Dialysis Center, Lower Navy Hill, Saipan. (PR)

#### As sweet as Candyland!

TAGS, a turtle conservation non-profit group, will be hosting the Candyland Party at Godfather's Bar on Feb. 24 at 7:30pm. The group is taking inspiration from the Hasbro classic Candyland for what's sure to be the best party around! Enjoy prizes, silent auction, "crowd favorite" date auction and more as throngs of costumed merrymakers party the night away in blue, purple, and cotton candy! Five dollars gets you in the door for cheap drinks and good times. Come in costume (or not), bring cash for the auction, and prepare your liver for Candyland Saipan 2012! (PR)

#### Manta Band selling raffle tickets

The Manta Ray Band is hosting a mega raffle ticket fundraiser for its trip to the 2012 Olympics in London. The group expects to sell 3,000 raffle tickets at \$50 apiece. The grand prize is \$5,000 in cash. The raffle will be held on May 4. A ticket purchase entitles the buyer to meet and watch the band perform on May 4 with light refreshments provided. They don't need to be present to win. (PR)

#### Red Cross sets CPR/AED this Saturday

The American Red Cross-NMI Chapter will be conducting the Health & Safety training at its training room on Airport Road. Its Pediatric CPR/AED will be held this Saturday, Feb. 25, from 8am to 11:30am

Pre-registration is required at least 24-hours prior to training date. A \$70 course-fee is required to participate in these trainings. Two-year certification cards are issued at end of training. Register by calling 1-800-REDCROSS or visiting www.redcross.org/training. For more information contact the local chapter at 234-3459. (ARC)

## Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 20, 2001

#### \$4M earmarked for American Memorial Park improvements

A total of \$4 million were appropriated by the Legislature for the construction of a visitor center, memorial garden and upgrading of the amphitheater inside the American Memorial Park. House Bill No. 12-288 or the American Memorial Park Projects Appropriations Act of 2000, is expected to improve the state of the Federal Cemetery as well as provide additional activities to the Commonwealth's tourist and resident community. The approved bill will draw funds from three sources. A total of \$1 million will be from unexpected balance of funds from Third Senatorial District Projects approved in Section 5(D)(3) of Public Law 11-119. While another \$1 million will be sourced from the Covenant 702 CIP. Finally, \$2 million will come in the form of CDA Loan from MPLT as authorized Pursuant to Public Law 11-72.

#### PSS fortifies character education in schools

The Public School System has started leaning towards the implementation of character education as an integral part of mainstream subject areas taught in public schools. The State Board of Education is determined to place character building subjects in equal rank with academic subjects like Mathematics, Science, Social Science, and others. BOE Chair Anthony Pellegrino underscored that the focus on values education is not necessarily an emphasis on religious morals, rather of universal core values such as respect, responsibility, and loyalty, among others as a relevant component to molding disciplined and productive citizens.

Feb. 20, 2002

#### MVA seeks use of old radar site

The Commonwealth Ports Authority asked the Marianas Visitors Authority to vacate its Field Operations Division office to give way to the Aircraft Rescue Firefighting Units' training. Because of this, MVA officials asked the Marianas Public Land Authority to grant them the old radar facility in Marpi for relocation. In a letter to MPLA Commissioner Bertha C. Guerrero, the MVA said it has considered various options and available alternatives but only the old radar site complements their operational needs. "Although the buildings require some work to be usable, we anticipate the overall expense to be far less than building a new structure elsewhere," MVA told MPLA in a letter.

#### Mariana mallard extinct, says US-DFW

The Mariana mallard, a kind of duck that is endemic to the Northern Marianas, has become extinct. This was revealed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, following extensive surveys on Saipan, Tinian and Rota. Surveys were also made in Guam. "The Mariana mallard was a large duck with a grayish and green head separated from a chestnut breast by a white collar, a white tail, yellow bill, and orange legs," a press statement released by the US Fish and Wildlife said. The species, it said, was originally listed as endangered by the then Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands sometime in 1976. The Service similarly included the duck in its list about a year later. "Excessive hunting and loss of wetland habitat due to natural and human-caused factors led to the listing."

Feb. 20, 2003

#### FAA to inspect CNMI airports

The Federal Aviation Administration will hold its annual inspection of all airports in the Northern Marianas as part of efforts to keep all air transport facilities throughout the nation in compliance with U.S. standards. The inspection will particularly look into the Commonwealth's compliance with the recently implemented security and safety measures at all airports across the United States following the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed that FAA official Ron Simpson will be on Saipan on February 24 to hold a four-day inspection of airports on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

#### BoR unfazed by negative reports on NMC's Wright

Board of Regents chairman Vince Seman yesterday admitted that he is a bit concerned about the negative reports being attributed to newly hired NMC president Kenneth Wright. This, even as he promptly added that the Wright still enjoys the confidence of the BoR. "Of course, I'm concerned but secondhand information is not as factual as firsthand information," Seman said, referring to a 1994 article published by the Messenger, Passaic Community College's publication, indicating that the college suffered severely from financial mismanagement during Wright's time.

# Island Snapshots



## GUAM CLEANUP

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class Ricky Brandon Jr., Mobile Expeditionary Security Group 1 Det. Guam, helps pick up trash in Agat, Guam last Feb. 11. The cleanup is an annual event where sailors from U.S. Naval Base Guam partner with their sister village of Agat.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Boatswain's Mate 1st Class (EXW/SW) Jerrimie Bautista, of Mobile Expeditionary Security Group 1 Det. Guam, helps pick up trash in Agat, Guam last Feb. 11. The cleanup is an annual event where sailors from U.S. Naval Base Guam partner with their sister village of Agat.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Master-at-Arms 3rd Class (EXW) Mark Barr, of U.S. Naval Base Guam Security, grabs some food as Agat Mayor Carol Tayama sets out more food for volunteers during a cleanup at the village's community center Feb. 11. The cleanup is an annual event where Sailors from U.S. Naval Base Guam partner with their sister village of Agat.



## KHS CLOSE-UP OFFICERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Kagman High School recently elected their CloseUp/Upclose officers. They are Joly Pangelinan, president; Russ Hocog, vice president; Julie Kapileo, secretary, and Celton Borja, treasurer. The group's advisor and co-advisors are Megan Herber, Stu Peterson, and Josie Kaipat.



## PUSONG PINOY

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Consul General Medardo Macaraig and wife Teresa Roselyn visit the Consulate booth at the Filcom Pavilion in Susupe during the Pusong Pinoy event last Feb. 11.



## EXPLOSIVES TRAINING

Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 3rd Class (EOD) Jacob Still, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, uses a detector to search for explosives during a five-day joint field training exercise with the Guam National Guard in Yigo last Feb. 9.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Explosive Ordnance Disposal Technician 3rd Class (EOD) Jacob Still, of Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit (EODMU) 5, takes photos to identify unexploded ordnance during a five-day joint field training exercise with the Guam National Guard in Yigo last Feb. 9.

# Opinion

## Saipan Tribune

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## EDITORIAL

### China's human rights record can't be ignored

**C**hina's one-party government is undergoing a leadership change, and both the United States and China have an interest in building constructive relationships.

Vice President Joe Biden visited China last August. This week, China's Vice President Xi Jinping is in the United States.

This is no ordinary visit. Xi is one of nine members of the Standing Committee of the Politburo and vice chair of China's Central Military Commission. He is expected to become head of the ruling Communist Party in the fall, and president of China in the spring of 2013.

So this is an important opportunity to address sensitive military issues in the Pacific, economic trade issues, international issues such as Iran and Syria—and, the ever-present irritant in U.S.-China relations, human rights—with the future leader of China.

Even as we seek cooperation and stronger ties in many areas, this is no time to shy away from candid conversations on human rights.

That includes the situation in Tibet. A timely, penetrating and risky piece by McClatchy Newspapers' Tom Lasseter details the situation of ethnic Tibetans in Sichuan province in southwestern China. Since last March, nearly two dozen have set themselves on fire in an unprecedented show of protest against Chinese rule.

Lasseter points out that for his report, a McClatchy reporter "hid on the rear floor of a vehicle under two backpacks and a sleeping bag as it passed through multiple checkpoints." This is the only way the outside world learns what's going on. The Chinese government, he notes, "goes to extensive lengths" to block outsiders from the area. The Internet, of course, is shut off or censored.

As Lasseter writes, the government has built many projects to improve living standards in the province, but ethnic Tibetans "chafe at the government restrictions on free expression of their culture and religious practices."

During his visit, Xi already is urging that the two nations stick to "core interests"—that is, non-interference in China's domestic affairs. Speaking on Wednesday, he said he wants the United States to "honor its commitment to recognizing Tibet as a part of China and oppose Tibetan independence and handle Tibetan issues in a prudent and proper manner."

That does not mean turning a blind eye to events, however. The United States has to be true to its own values of freedom of speech and assembly, and freedom from arbitrary authority.

And even as U.S. businesses press for closer ties and loosening of Chinese trade restrictions, Americans also should be attentive to working conditions in China—such as plants where Apple computer products are assembled.

Clearly, the United States and China have an interest in working through difficulties to forge a long-term relationship. As former diplomat Henry Kissinger has written in his book "On China," consensus "may be difficult," but confrontation is "self-defeating."

(c)2012 The Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, Calif.)

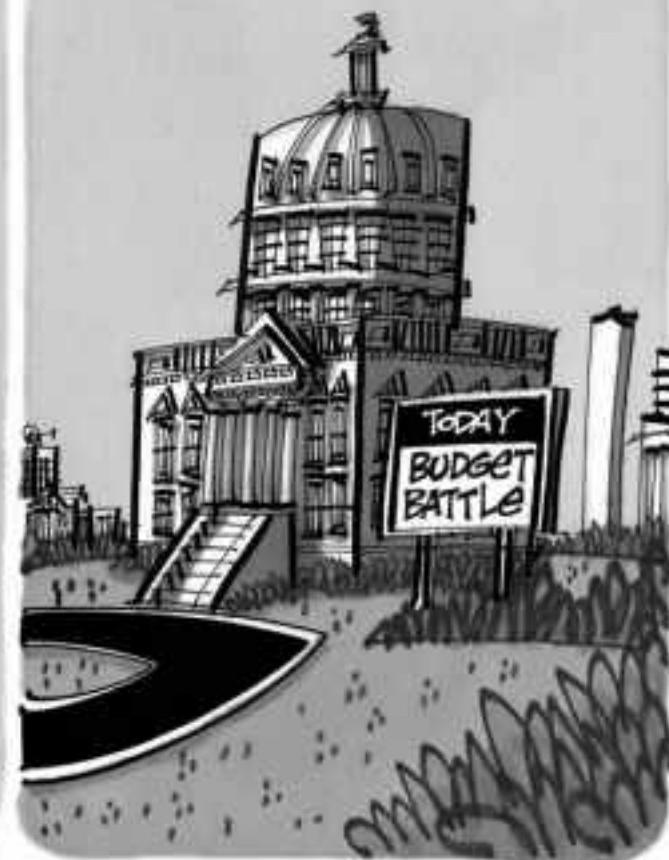
## THE WESTMINSTER DOG SHOW IS OVER...

JUDGE@ZTANACOMMUNIST/linode@



## THE WASHINGTON, D.C. DOG & PONY SHOW BEGINS.

kctaw.com



## To the youth and young at heart—seize the day!

**T**oday I want to talk to you, the youth and young at heart regardless of age, about our future. The CNMI is suffering. Our adult leaders cannot figure out how to stop the tailspin we are in. They are clutching at anything in their desperation. However the answers do not lie in begging for more government money, casinos, or some other pie-in-the-sky scheme.

They fail to see that the only true remedy is that you and I must return to working our islands whether it is in the fields, shops and in other kinds of occupations. Government alone is unable to improve our lives. They only continue to suffocate us. We, ourselves, must turn things around by getting involved. Governments do not solve problems. People do!

Therefore I am appealing to you—the youth and young at heart—to seize the day! Reach out and rebuild our economy. Those of us who want a better future must turn our back on government jobs and enter the private sector to begin the real labor of rebuilding our country.

There over 3,000 commercial licenses in the CNMI. How many of these belong to us the local people? We should be the shop owners and restaurant cooks. We should turn our idle soil into a productive one. We can produce thousands of pounds of fruits and vegetable monthly if we tried. Why aren't we competing in this commercial market place? There are many opportunities once we begin our search.

We, the youth and young at heart, must step up and begin to compete or expect to be subservient and in a depressed economical state forever. There are many of us in the community capable of taking up the challenges. Begin standing up and do it!

The other day a young man attending an off-island college had a good write-up in our local newspaper about how he wishes to change events in the CNMI upon his return. One of his quotes stated: "I want to go back to Saipan and reform the very broken political system there...I want employment in the Northern Marianas Island to be based on what you know, not on who you know." How many of us harbor that deep desire yet is afraid to speak out? Please step forward! You are the new heartbeat and pacemaker of our future.

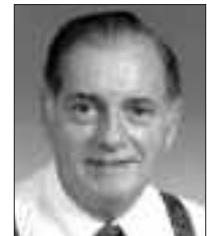
To begin our education on this endeavor, I am strongly recommending that we read the two following books: "Do It! Let's Get Off Our Butts!" by Peter McWilliams. This book readily explains that excuses are our biggest handicaps. A must reading for motivation!

The other book is "The World is Flat" by Thomas L Friedman. He explains what technology is doing to our world. Because of this

**By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.



ever advancing technology, every hiccup is immediately heard and felt around the world. We cannot remain in our cocoon any longer. The CNMI, is no longer a remote Pacific Island, but is part of the league of nations.

This year is an election year. Have any of us considered running for office? The CNMI needs youthful thinkers and doers. Please consider the possibility of running for office. No, we are not too young nor inexperienced. All we need is a plan and lots of passion. Seriously consider running for an elected office. We may just win!

Our present officials are unable to come up with any ideas which will improve our society except to try to shove casinos down our throats without any justification. There are many opportunities awaiting us but they must be viewed from a different perspective. It is time to seize the day. We the youth must strive to make tomorrow better. Our elders have failed us! Every election we hear the same old stories how they will change things. Why didn't they do that the first time around?

It is time that we the youth step forward. How many of us know that young elected officials between the ages of 18 and 35 represent 4.8 percent of all elected leaders in congressional, gubernatorial, legislators and city and county commissions. Look up the young Congressman Marco Rubio of Florida or Mike Lee of Utah, both young legislators but dynamic leaders.

We can even run for mayor at the age of 25. There is Mayor Christopher Seeley from Pennsylvania who is only 18 years old. Paul L. Reyes from Texas is only 21 years old. Jeremy Wilson from Texas is only 24. How about Justin Seese from Penna. at 19 years old and Michael Sessions also 18 years old! Why can't we also challenge the system?

I realize that many of us would like to run for office but fear that their parents will not approve. Tell your parents that you do respect them but you will have to respect them respectfully. Our community needs you. Think what you could do to improve things upon

See YOUTH on Next Page

**EDITORIAL POLICY**

**L**etters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com); or through our website at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com).

## Linsanity and the presidency

**F**rom zero to hero is the hyperbole used on 23-year-old Jeremy Lin, a SF Bay Area boy of Taiwanese descent, an outstanding HS basketball player who failed to garner the athletic scholarship from neighboring Stanford or the other dream school UCLA. Harvard noticed his 4.2 GPA and took him in to excel in Ivy League basketball. Still, he missed the serious draft of the NBA pros.

Lin got a partially guaranteed contract deal with hometown Golden State Warriors but was waived to the Houston Rockets only to end up with the Knicks who dribbled him into the majors from the minors. An ironic turn of events occurred when injured Knicks star forward Carmelo Anthony allowed Lin to play point guard, leading his team to seven consecutive wins, enough for the anemic press, starved for a real story, to give itself cosmic permission to painfully pun the Queen's English out of control. Linsufferably Lincredible!

The Linmania that has since hit the Big Apple livens up a shortened basketball season with no less than Laker superstar Kobe Bryant conceding more than just perseverance on Lin's part in upending the Lakers' usual romp over the Madison Square Garden opponent. Catalyzing a Knicks' resurgence, *Time Magazine* put Lin on its cover, declaring that the Lin phenomenon was real.

Rumors has it that Kim Kardashian of Reality TV, reputedly not shy in prowling the Big League's locker rooms, reportedly dropped the notion of a date into the paparazzis' photo ambush lookout! There are no shortages of detractors. Boxer Floyd Mayweather Jr., famous for denigrating the Pacman while avoiding a ring confrontation, tweeted on Lin's notoriety as nothing but a concession to an Asian! The racist card is out.

While the power of height and brawn dominates full court and hoof rims, Lin's 6'3" height on spindly 90 kg of lean but mean weightlifting frame produced Linconceivable grace with nary a drop of conceit at play, seldom seen in the big league. The drama at full court, with an evangelical Christian wearing the assurances of his faith slightly less on than the in-your-face shove and show of football's Tebow, became

internece bashing, has Mitt Romney's head bobbing up and down the lead on the Red column while homophobic and anti-abortion Rick Santorum resurges, Newt Gingrich insurgents, and Ron Paul nibbles on entrails! All loudly have Obama on their cross-hair sights!

We obviously do not mind Obama executing a well-orchestrated waltz into the White House for a second term but it is the Office of the President that frames our insanity concern.

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court and hoof rims, Lin's 6'3"  
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than the in-your-face shove and  
show of football's Tebow, became  
Lintelligently more Linteresting!

GeoWash's historical fame was his refusal to be crowned King George of the New World. Instead, the noble and calculated intent of the separation of powers, with built-in checks-and-balances, born of distrust of Royal Monarchs, organized the three branches of government to formulate the structures of order, justice and welfare. Out to create a triad of collegiality, check-and-balances deteriorated into a triune struggle for power; the Executive expected to act royally without the crown (through its feudal Departments and Bureaus), while Congress stages popular shows and verbal gladiatorial fairs

but fails to fairly legislate, and the Judicial branch retire their brains up high in the corporate sky way above the pedestrian rights of the main street crowd.

**By JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Jaime R. Vergara ([jrvvergarajr2031@aol.com](mailto:jrvvergarajr2031@aol.com)) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

Add to this the tiered nature of political sovereignty with the Feds rhetorically functioning from the mandate of the Constitution and the Acts of Congress while the States assertively maintain self-reliant integrity without ceding powers to extraneous entities beyond its borders. Joins a third group of incorporated and unincorporated territories, non-voting representations like the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and a compounded problem comes in triplicates. Thus, a dilemma of built-in dialectical contradiction between the Federal and State bodies perpetually abides. Equal-but-separate cries emanate from the States and territories, and that's how we got Uncle Ben suing the Feds in Federal Court!

Obama campaigned on the reversal of Executive powers to be weighted more on the side of broad proletarian participation, "Yes, We Can", but was thwarted quickly when Wall Street cried "Wolf" on the fractures of the nation's financial foundations. We still have a big question mark on the Executive Office.

Linsanity ascends the media stage when Xi Jing Peng, next China President is in town, acting like the old Abe-Teddy-FDR-Truman-Kennedy Presidential politico revisiting Iowa farms and stopping over L.A. where 40 percent of China exports enter the U.S.

Lin has a birth certificate from California, a nice guy with a non-judgmental evangelical smirk, and has the Lintelligence to play gracefully under pressure, but he is more than a decade away from the White House so we won't mind if he hangs out with Kim awhile.

That leaves Obama Linevitably close to a second term, if I may be allowed my Lincisive analysis! Happy Presidents' Day.

## Maseha Halom Chinatsaga

**I**Saina ha tagu' si Moses para u lagnos i Israelitas ginen Ehiptu (Egypt) pot man-matrara kumu eskablu. Este i dignun tau-tau sumen guaguan. Debi un' unestu ya un' respetan maisa hau. Gigon masge' este giya hagu, un' tutuhon mandage kon-todu inisaguen familiamu mismu.

Piot ya un' u'usa' sensian dudus yan banida siempre un' sufa' achiu' mattiñgan gi halom chubasku. Dispues de machalapon malabidamu, makat un' reskata i hagas un' gogosa na reputas-ion-mu antes.

Gi bandan lalahe, mas buente i mañan chanseru ya kontodu kosas bisinumu un' hasñgon sumaki para usumu. Na ma'agim korasonmu ya un' guatdia mauleg i dignomu 'sino kulan hau machalapon ba-sula gi kanton chalan.

Todu klasen tiempu guaha para maseha hafa na okasion. Guaha tiempun maipe, uchan, pagyu, katma, afnu', ma'te, nubladu, klaru, finattu, despedia, abundansia, hai'las, pueñge yan haane.

Gai tiempun brabu, malañgu', hoben, amku', metgot yan dañge',

Gaige-yu' pagu hihot gi tiempun kalun tomu. Dañkulun buraka 'an matagu'yu' para bai' na halom i siñkuenta libra na kostat pugas gin-en i karea. Mampos esta makat piot sa' rusketiyu' pagu. A' Saina!

■■■

Yangin unna' setbe galun banida gi destrosion linala' tautau pues siempre u fattu ayu na ha'ane 'nai mismu dandan-mu un' madandane. I para unna' fan para empleau pot taya' fondu ya un' chogue silensiу gi hilu' sinetsot, siempre un' ma-asi'i nu emau na aksionmu.

Lau yangin un' banidosuye, pues kulan i tanu' ni ridondou, nana-ña tareha-mu. Ti umahñau siempre un' finatoigue 'nai mas ti un' ekspepeka. Este i minaipen tautau, sumen makat 'an mattu giya hita mismu. Anog na trabiha ti ta komprerende i finu' i Saina 'nai ilegnā chamu chechegue gi otru haf' tiyamu na un' machogue mismu.

■■■

Kada 'nos kuantos mesis, man-mahogse hit nuebu na hatsadan hanom yan kandet. I namatman i sensian no siakassu ginen i man-ma'gasta gi hegsu' i Deni. Ti masesiente haf' pinadesen tautau siha gi señgoñg sa' hita umapasiye ni apas utilidat, karea, gaselina

to try and fail than not try and know defeat without trying.

I am reminded of the youthful Tina Sablan who ran successfully for the Legislature and won. Had she had more members in the Legislature about her age and passion for improving our country, we may not be in the situation we find ourselves in. Wouldn't it be great if she and some of us would run together? Think of it--the youth brigade to the rescue!

If you have any inkling to run for office, begin by contacting other youthful leaders around the United States either on Facebook or other web pages. Talk to them to find out what motivated them and the difficulties they had to overcome to succeed. It is not the amount of money we will spend, but our drive and passions that will make us succeed. Should any of us find the courage to run for political office this year and need guidance, I and others are willing to assist. Just call me. You, the youth, have great fresh

## YOUTH

From Page 10

being elected!

We could motivate the people to work harder. We could join forces with the business community. It is a proven fact that government and business must play a complementary role in our society. They must work hand in hand for all its citizens to prosper.

Remember the voting age begins at 18 years old. Think of all the votes from young people in college, working in businesses, Americans living here, and young U.S. citizens born here of foreign parents. Add the number of older voters fed up with the present circumstances, and you may have more votes than you realize voting for us the youth. We certainly cannot do worse than now. It is better

ideas needed to bring change.

Come, little eagles, let's break our chains and fly high and touch the sky. We can soar above the clouds and see below a broad vision. If we don't soar now, don't whine at what may happen later!

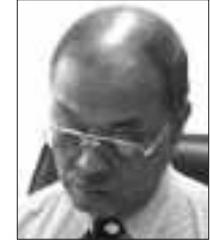
Plato, the Great Greek philosopher stated: "Those who are too smart to engage in politics are punished by being governed by those who are dumber." And Mahatma Gandhi, the great Indian leader, once stated: "You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

This is my plea for the week. Will it fall on deaf ears or on eager young hearts? Run for office! Run like never before!

Oh, well, at least let's share our great big SMILE with everybody we meet. At most, we will get a big SMILE back. Show our lovely teeth with a giant grin. Remember a SMILE a day keeps the doctor away. So SMILE! SMILE! And have a great week.

**By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: [www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.pr.noaa.gov/guam/)

# The Weather

## 5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°	▲ 86° ▾ 76°

### Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 84 ▾ 77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▾ 78
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▾ 78
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▾ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 81
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▾ 81
Majuro	Showers	▲ 86 ▾ 79

### Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 72 ▾ 64
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 40 ▾ 22
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▾ 60
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 79 ▾ 69
London	Cloudy	▲ 46 ▾ 31
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▾ 44
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲ 76 ▾ 58
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 73 ▾ 65
New York	Sunny	▲ 42 ▾ 27
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 50 ▾ 35
Paris	Mostly Sunny	▲ 42 ▾ 28
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 46 ▾ 35
Rome	Showers	▲ 58 ▾ 40
Salem	Showers	▲ 48 ▾ 43
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 58 ▾ 47
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 43 ▾ 24
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 50 ▾ 33
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 43 ▾ 30

### Tides

### Sunrise/Sunset

### Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:40 AM	6:22 PM	Today	5:02 AM	4:53 PM
Tuesday	6:39 AM	6:22 PM	Tuesday	5:46 AM	5:46 PM
Wednesday	6:39 AM	6:23 PM	Wednesday	6:27 AM	6:37 PM
Thursday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Thursday	7:06 AM	7:26 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM	Friday	7:44 AM	8:15 PM

### GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

#### PICTURES

■ ISLAND SNAPSHOT Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.

#### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.

#### BUSINESS

Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

#### SAMUT SARI

Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.

#### TRAVELOGUE

Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

#### CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

#### REQUIREMENTS

##### For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

##### For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

#### HOW TO SUBMIT

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  - Fax: (670) 235-3740
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  - Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

#### POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

#### DEPARTURES

##### GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5

##### SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)

C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5

##### SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

C05064 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP  
C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7  
C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily  
C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7  
C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7  
C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7  
C05079 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6  
C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7  
C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6

##### SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily  
DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 3, 5, 7  
DL297 4:25pm 7:15pm Daily

##### SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily

##### SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1  
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7  
OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX  
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily

##### SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7  
DL581 4:10am 7:30am 1, 5

##### SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6

##### SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7

##### SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN  
OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  
C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM  
DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT  
C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM  
C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM  
C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM  
C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM  
C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau  
OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN  
C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM  
C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM

##### SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN  
OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN  
C05076/147 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM  
OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN  
OZ604/749 3:20pm 10:50pm Daily via ICN

##### HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN  
OZ750/603 1:00am 2:20pm Daily via ICN  
OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN  
OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN  
CO180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; C2: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

### FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115		13:00	13:10
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117		14:30	14:40
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119		16:00	16:10
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121		16:40	16:50
Guam-Rota							

# Business

## Gas prices are highest ever for this time of year

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Gasoline prices have never been higher this time of the year.

At \$3.53 a gallon, prices are already up 25 cents since Jan. 1. And experts say they could reach a record \$4.25 a gallon by late April.

"You're going to see a lot more staycations this year," says Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy & Economic Research. "When the price gets anywhere near \$4, you really see people react."

Already, W. Howard Coudle, a retired machinist from Crestwood, Mo., has seen his monthly gasoline bill rise to \$80 from about \$60 in December. The closest service station is selling regular for \$3.39 per gallon, the highest he's ever seen.

"I guess we're going to have to drive less, consolidate all our errands into one trip," Coudle says. "It's just oppressive."

The surge in gas prices follows

an increase in the price of oil.

Oil around the world is priced differently. Brent crude from the North Sea is a proxy for the foreign oil that's imported by U.S. refineries and turned into gasoline and other fuels. Its price has risen 11 percent so far this year, to around \$119 a barrel, because of tensions with Iran, a cold snap in Europe and rising demand from developing nations. West Texas Intermediate, used to price oil produced in the U.S., is up 4 percent to around \$103 a barrel. That's 19 percent higher than a year earlier.

Higher gas prices could hurt consumer spending and curtail the recent improvement in the U.S. economy.

A 25-cent jump in gasoline prices, if sustained over a year, would cost the economy about \$35 billion. That's only 0.2 percent of the total U.S. economy, but economists say it's a meaningful amount, especially

at a time when growth is only so-so. The economy grew 2.8 percent in the fourth quarter, a rate considered modest following a recession.

Gas prices are already an issue in the presidential campaign. Republican candidate Newt Gingrich spoke several times this week about opening up more federal land to oil and gas drilling as a path toward U.S. energy independence—and lower pump prices.

"Our goals should be to get gasoline to \$2.50 or less so that working families can actually get to work and retired families can travel," Gingrich said at a campaign event in Los Angeles Thursday.

High oil and gas prices now set the stage for even sharper increases at the pump because gas typically rises in March and April.

Every spring, refiners suspend operations to switch the

type of gasoline they make. Supplies of wintertime gas are sold off before March, when refineries need to start making a new formula of gasoline that's required in the summer.

That can mean less supply for service stations, resulting in higher gas prices. And summertime gasoline is more expensive to make. The government mandates that it contain less butane and other cheap organic compounds because they contribute to the formation of ground-level ozone, a primary constituent in smog. That means more oil, a costlier component, is needed to produce each gallon.

The Oil Price Information

Service predicts that gasoline could peak at \$4.25 a gallon by the end of April. That would top the record of \$4.11 in July 2008.

The national average for gasoline began the year at \$3.28 a gallon. The average price for February so far is \$3.49 a gallon. That's up from \$3.17 a gallon last February, a record at the time. Back in 2007, before the recession hit, the average for February was \$2.25 a gallon.

Prices are higher on the East and West Coasts, where gasoline has risen above \$3.70 in Connecticut, New York, Washington D.C. and California. This isn't unusual—states on the coasts charge some of the na-

tion's highest gas taxes.

High gas prices put a strain on many people's budgets.

Americans spent 8.4 percent of their household income on gasoline last year when gas averaged an all-time high of \$3.51 a gallon. That's double the percentage a decade ago. They could pay even more this year, even though demand is the lowest in 11 years as people drive fewer miles in more efficient cars, says Tom Kloza, chief oil analyst at OPIS.

Gary Goodman commutes into Manhattan from Edgewater, N.J., because gas, tolls and parking make the cost of driving prohibitive.



A sign displays gas prices at a gas station Friday, Feb. 17, 2012, in San Diego. Some analysts are starting to worry that rising fuel costs will undermine consumer spending and stymie economic growth.

### That's a wrap: US hails China agreement on movies

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Cheering as loudly as any movie audience, Hollywood and the Obama administration on Saturday hailed China's agreement to reduce barriers that have kept U.S.-made films out of the booming Chinese market.

Vice President Joe Biden called it a "breakthrough," and said the accord will "make it easier than ever before for U.S. studios and independent filmmakers to reach the fast-growing Chinese audience." He added that it will support "thousands of American jobs in and around the film industry."

The agreement was announced Friday during a California visit by Chinese Vice President Xi Jinping, with Biden serving as host.

Gaining entrance to China's movie market has long been atop Hollywood's wish list, and

the industry's chief lobby group, the Motion Picture Association of America, said the "landmark" deal will significantly boost U.S. exports to China overall.

It's also a rare bright spot in a trade relationship that's been a major battleground. The administration has repeatedly pressed Beijing to be more open to U.S. exports—especially by letting China's currency rise—and do more to prevent piracy of movies and other intellectual property.

U.S. officials first complained to the World Trade Organization in 2007 about film import restrictions, and the WTO ruled in Washington's favor two years later.

Under the accord, U.S. filmmakers will be given new opportunities to distribute their films outside China's state-run movie monopoly, will have bet-

ter commercial terms for 3-D and other large-format films and will reap a bigger share of the profit for films that are distributed by Chinese companies.

The market in question has been growing rapidly. Box office receipts last year topped \$2 billion, U.S. officials said.

Chris Dodd, the association's CEO, who visited Shanghai last June to press Hollywood's case, said Friday's agreement "will return a much better share of the box office revenues to U.S. studios, revising a two-decade-old formula that kept those revenues woefully under normal commercial terms." He estimated that Chinese audiences would see 50 percent more U.S. films.

Disney CEO Robert Iger added that the agreement is a "significant opportunity" in the world's most populous nation.

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—The \$143 billion payroll tax cut won by President Barack Obama may be the last significant measure he receives from a deeply divided Congress that promises to only get more polarized as Election Day approaches.

Obama's coveted renewal of the payroll tax cut for 160 million workers and jobless benefits for millions more caps a five-month campaign-style drive against reluctant Republicans.

Under the bill Congress approved Friday, workers would continue to receive a 2 percentage point increase in their paychecks, and people out of work for more than six months would keep jobless benefits averaging about \$300 a week, steps that Obama says will help support a fragile recovery from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

It would also head off a steep cut in reimbursements for physicians who treat Medicare patients.

The tax cuts, jobless coverage and higher doctors' payments would all continue through 2012.

Passage of the legislation hands Obama a victory over objections from many GOP lawmakers who oppose it but were eager to wipe the issue from the election-year agenda.

It also clears away a political headache for House Republicans, who blocked a two-month extension of the tax cut and jobless coverage in late December, only to retreat quickly under a buzz saw of opposition from conservative and GOP leaders from around the country.

With that history, Republicans seemed ready to get the fight behind them and change the subject for the rest of this election year.

"We're dumb, but we're not stupid," Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., told reporters after he voted. "We did not want to repeat the debacle of last December. It's not that complicated."

Republicans said the final deal, significantly changed from a tea party-backed measure that passed in December, was the best Republicans could get.

"We don't control Washington. Democrats still control Washington—they control the

Senate, and they control the White House," said Rep. Dave Camp, R-Mich., the top House negotiator on the measure. "A divided government must still govern." Camp cited stricter job search requirements for people receiving unemployment benefits and other changes in the program as wins for conservatives.

Extending the 2 percentage point cut in the 6.2 percent Social Security payroll tax would save around \$80 monthly for someone earning \$50,000 a year and give a maximum cut of \$2,200 to high-end earners.

The reduction in the Social Security payroll tax, which is deducted from workers' paychecks, would cost \$93 billion through 2022. In a sudden concession this week that made bipartisan agreement possible, House Republicans dropped their demand that the tax cut be paid for with spending reductions.

In a GOP win, coverage for the long-term unemployed would be cut from the current maximum of 99 weeks to a ceiling of 73 weeks by this fall in states with the worst job markets, with most topping out at 63 weeks.

### BUSINESS BRIEFS

#### China cuts bank reserve ratio to spur growth

**BEIJING** (AP)—China's central bank will lower the ratio of funds that banks must hold as reserves in a move that frees tens of billions of dollars for lending and aims to help spur slowing economic growth. The reserve requirement ratio for major commercial banks will be decreased Friday to 20.5 percent from 21 percent, the People's Bank of China said Saturday in a one-sentence notice on its website. The cut frees money for lending at a time when the growth rate is expected to drop from last quarter's 8.9 percent to closer to 8 percent.

#### Taiwan's Foxconn raises wages for Chinese workers

**TAIPEI, Taiwan** (AP)—Taiwan's Foxconn Technology Group said Saturday that it has raised wages by up to 25 percent in the second major salary hike in less than two years, as the world's largest electronics contract manufacturer comes under intensive scrutiny after a spate of suicides. Foxconn employs about 1 million workers at its massive plants in China that are run with military-

like discipline. The workers assemble iPhones and iPads for Apple Inc., Xbox video game consoles for Microsoft Corp. and computers for Dell and Hewlett-Packard. Chinese workers at Foxconn now receive between 1,800-2,500 yuan (\$285-\$400) per month following the raises that became effective Feb. 1, the company said.

#### Dutch logistics co. TNT rejects UPS' \$6.43B bid

**NEW YORK** (AP)—United Parcel Service, the world's largest package delivery company, said Friday it is still in talks to acquire TNT Express even though the Dutch package delivery company rejected a \$6.43 billion bid. UPS said there is no guarantee that they will reach middle ground and make a deal. If UPS were to successfully buy TNT, it would significantly expand its business in Europe. The deal would be UPS' biggest ever. It also would be the biggest acquisition of European company by a U.S. corporation in six months—since Hewlett-Packard Co. offered \$10 billion to buy business software maker Autonomy Corp., according to Dealogic.

Obama's covited renewal of the payroll tax cut for 160 million workers and jobless benefits for millions more caps a five-month campaign-style drive against reluctant Republicans.

Under the bill Congress approved Friday, workers would continue to receive a 2 percentage point increase in their paychecks, and people out of work for more than six months would keep jobless benefits averaging about \$300 a week, steps that Obama says will help support a fragile recovery from the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression.

It would also head off a steep cut in reimbursements for physicians who treat Medicare patients.

The tax cuts, jobless coverage and higher doctors' payments would all continue through 2012.

# Nation

## John Glenn reunites with 50-year-old Mercury team

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(AP)—John Glenn joined the proud, surviving veterans of NASA's Project Mercury on Saturday in celebrating the 50th anniversary of his historic orbital flight.

The first American to orbit the Earth thanked the approximately 125 retired Mercury workers, now in their 70s and 80s, who gathered with their spouses at Kennedy Space Center to swap stories, pose for pictures and take a bow.

"There are a lot more bald heads and gray heads in that group than others, but those are the people who did lay the foundation," the 90-year-old Glenn said at an evening ceremony attended by NASA officials, politicians, astronauts and hundreds of others. "We may be up on the point of that thing and get a lot of the attention, and we had ticker-tape parades and all that sort of thing. But the people who made it work ... you're the ones who deserve the accolade. So give yourselves a great big ovation," Glenn said, leading the crowd in applause.

Glenn and fellow astronaut Scott Carpenter, 86, spent nearly an hour before the ceremony being photographed with the retirees, posing for individual pictures in front of a black curtain with a model of a Mercury-Atlas rocket. Glenn and Carpenter are the lone survivors of NASA's original Mercury 7 astronauts.

Earlier in the day, the Mercury brigade traveled by bus to



Former Sen. John Glenn, left, and Scott Carpenter, right, speak at the Kennedy Space Center, Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 in Cape Canaveral, Fla. AP

Launch Complex 14. That's the pad from which Glenn rocketed away on Feb. 20, 1962.

Some retirees were in wheelchairs, while others used walkers or canes. Most walked, some more surely than others. But they all beamed with pride as they took pictures of the abandoned pad and of each other, and went into the blockhouse to see the old Mercury photos on display and to reminisce.

As retired engineer Norm Beckel Jr. rode to the pad Saturday, he recalled being seated in the blockhouse right beside Carpenter as the astronaut called out to Glenn right before liftoff, "Godspeed John Glenn."

But there's more to the story. "Before he said that, he said, 'Remember, John, this was built

by the low bidder,'" Beckel, 81, told The Associated Press.

The Mercury-Atlas rocket shook the domed bunker-like structure, although no one inside could hear the roar because of the thick walls.

"Nothing was said by anybody until they said, 'He's in orbit,' and then the place erupted," Beckel recalled.

Beckel and Jerry Roberts, 78, a retired engineer who also was in the blockhouse that historic morning, said almost all the workers back then were in their 20s and fresh out of college. The managers were in their 30s. "I don't know if I'd trust a 20-year-old today," Beckel said.

"They don't know it, but we would have worked for nothing," said Roberts, who spends

the winter in Florida.

Bob Schepp, 77, who like Beckel traveled from St. Louis, Mo., for the reunion, was reminded by the old launch equipment of how rudimentary everything was back then.

"I wonder how we ever managed to launch anything in space with that kind of stuff," Schepp said. "Everything is so digital now. But we were pioneers, and we made it all work."

The Mercury team included women, about 20 of whom gathered for the anniversary festivities. One pulled aside an AP reporter to make sure she knew women were part of the team.

"Most of the women here are wives," said Lucy Simon Rakov, 74. But not her.

"We weren't secretaries. We

were mathematicians," said Rakov, a pioneering computer programmer who traveled from

Boston for the reunion.

Patricia Palombo, 74, also a computer programmer, said working on Project Mercury proved to be the most significant thing she's done in her career.

Glenn's flight was the turning point that put America on a winning path that ultimately led to the moon.

"It's been downhill from here," Palombo said with a laugh. She lives near Washington, D.C.

Roberts praised the wives who endured the hardships back then. He recalled how he and his colleagues worked 16- and 18-hour days, seven days a week, especially after the Soviet Union grabbed the prize of first spaceman with Yuri Gagarin in 1961. Gagarin reached orbit on his mission; another Soviet cosmonaut also rocketed into orbit before Glenn's voyage.

## ICE agent was fatally shot during struggle for gun

LONG BEACH, Calif.

(AP)—An Immigration and Customs Enforcement agent accused of shooting a supervisor died after an "intense" struggle for his gun with a colleague who burst into the office after he heard shots fired, an official said Saturday.

The shooting Thursday happened after Ezequiel Garcia had a discussion about his job performance with ICE's second-in-command in the Los Angeles region, agency spokeswoman Virginia Kice said. Another agent who attended the meeting had just left the office and rushed back after the shots rang to disarm Garcia.

"There was a very, very intense struggle," Kice said. "They were physically struggling over the gun."

The agent eventually drew his own gun and shot Garcia, Kice said. ICE is not releasing the agent's name.

The supervisor, Kevin Kozak, continued to recover Saturday from at least six bullet wounds, including to the hand, knee and torso, Kice said. Kozak, 51, is the agency's deputy special agent in charge of investigations in the Los Angeles region.

Garcia joined the former

Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1988 and was named criminal investigator three years later. Shortly after the Department of Homeland Security was created in 2003, he was promoted to supervisor for a documents and benefits fraud task force.

He had told his wife of problems at work but, when she called him at the office Thursday, everything seemed normal, according to the Los Angeles Times. They talked about having Korean barbecue for dinner. Before he could go home, though, he had to meet with a high-ranking supervisor about his job performance.

Garcia's wife, Balbina, told the newspaper on Friday that the couple were going through a divorce after 14 years of marriage but trying to work things out.

"He never made it home," she said.

Former neighbors in Murrieta, southeast of Los Angeles, said Saturday that Garcia worked long hours and mostly kept to himself.

"He was friendly enough to wave and say hi, but he didn't have too much time for conversation," said Tim Shepard, 49, who lived across the street.

## US Capitol bomb plot arrest capped yearlong probe

**WASHINGTON** (AP)—Within the last week, authorities say, Amine El Khalifi's plan to wreak havoc was proceeding as hoped: An al-Qaida associate handed him an automatic weapon to kill security officers inside the U.S. Capitol. A bomb-laden vest would detonate the building. He would die as a martyr.

But there was a problem: The explosives were inert, the gun inoperable and the supposed al-Qaida member was actually an undercover officer, according to court documents.

El Khalifi was arrested Friday in a parking garage on his way to carry out an attack the FBI says he kicked around for months, even detonating a prac-

tice bomb in a quarry, all with varied targets in mind.

An FBI affidavit traces the evolution of the plot from a vague plan to prepare for the "war on Muslims" to more clearly articulated visions of attacking a restaurant and synagogue to, finally, a goal of obliterating the seat of American government. The document alleges a weeks-long flurry of final activity by El Khalifi,

monitored by the FBI and coordinated through an undercover agent, to scope out the building, train in explosives and arm himself for a suicide attack.

As El Khalifi, 29, was making a court appearance Friday on a terrorism-related charge,

the FBI executed search warrants inside a gated residential community in Alexandria and at a red-brick rambler in Arlington, though it wasn't immediately known what they found.

El Khalifi is scheduled to have a bond hearing Wednesday. A public defender at El Khalifi's initial appearance didn't return a phone message Saturday. If he is indicted and convicted, he could face life in prison.

Authorities have released only basic biographical details about El Khalifi and haven't described how they believe he became intent on destruction. He was born in Morocco and came to the United States in 1999, when he was 16, overstaying

his visitor visa and remaining in the country illegally, court papers say. He is unemployed and is not believed to be associated with al-Qaida.

In 2010, he aroused the suspicion of a former landlord, Frank Dynda, who leased him a one-bedroom apartment inside a brick building in Arlington before ultimately evicting him for not paying rent. He said El Khalifi lived with a woman, whose name was used to secure the lease. Dynda recalled the woman as Bulgarian and said he was under the impression they were married.

She had a job, but El Khalifi appeared not to have rent money.

high school nearby.

### Report: Calif. killer's letter cites more bodies

SACRAMENTO, Calif.

(AP)—Sacramento television station CBS-13 has received a letter it says is from serial killer Wesley Shermantine claiming he knows of sites where the bodies of additional victims were

dumped. The station reports that in a letter with Shermantine's signature from San Quentin State Prison, the convicted killer says there are two locations where his accomplice, Loren Herzog, disposed of two victims. Shermantine says he hasn't revealed the locations because he hasn't been paid \$33,000 promised by bounty hunter Leonard Padilla.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### 2 boys, man killed in fire on Ariz. reservation

PHOENIX (AP)—Authorities say two boys and a man are dead after a house fire on the San Carlos Apache Reservation in eastern Arizona. The Arizona Republic reports the boys were 5 and 7 years old, and the man was 50. Warren Youngman, an assistant special agent with the Bureau of

Indian Affairs, says officers arrived at the burning home at 1:45 a.m. Saturday. They were met by a 63-year-old woman who said her grandchildren and a family friend were inside.

#### LA schools head: Staff can learn from lewd charges

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Los

Angeles Unified School District official has sent a video message to all district employees, saying the allegations of lewd acts against two longtime teachers do not reflect on them. The brief video titled "Breaking the Silence" was posted Saturday by the LA Daily News. In it, Superintendent John Deasy (DAY'-see) thanks district employees for "amazing" work, but encourages them to learn from the incidents at Miramonte Elementary—starting with a review of the district's child abuse training. Deasy also explains the status of the Miramonte staff and faculty who were replaced while the district investigates the allegations. The removed staff members have been relocated to a new, unopened

# Asia

## Thailand questions ‘open door’ after terror plot

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Unwinding at a beach town with bar girls came first. Building bombs was allegedly for later.

The three Iranians detained in Bangkok and accused of plotting to attack Israeli diplomats set priorities during their trip to Thailand. They spent time in the company of prostitutes at a famous beach resort that has attracted many of the world’s unsavory characters.

Thailand’s tourism industry, which accounts for 6 percent of the economy and employs more than 2 million people, brings in more than \$25 billion in revenues every year. It is inevitable then that among the roughly 12 million visitors every year, there will be many people with nefarious backgrounds.

The “Land of Smiles” has long been a favorite haven for criminals—from Russian arms dealer Viktor Bout to gangsters, drug smugglers and pedophiles—drawn by its open-door visa policy, lax law



An unidentified victim of chlorine inhalation after an explosion in a hotel's swimming pool receives emergency treatment in Phuket, Thailand Saturday Feb 18, 2012.

enforcement and huge variety of white sand beaches.

Officials are now questioning if they should roll back the welcome mat a little.

“We have to admit that there are threats all over the world,

and our country is a weak link,” National Security Council chief Wichean Potephosree said after an apparently foiled bomb plot was uncovered when an explosion in the Iranians’ rented house Tuesday

forced authorities to acknowledge that Thailand was a target of international terrorists.

Within days of the terror scare, the Thai Tourism Ministry put on hold a plan to allow visas on arrival to citizens

of Middle Eastern countries, including Iran. Deputy Prime Minister Chalerm Yubumrung said he would order immigration authorities to “closely check people who enter the country, especially from countries that might have problems.”

On Friday, police revealed that the three Iranians had flown into the resort island of Phuket on Feb. 8, then moved to Pattaya, a seedy beach town on the Gulf of Thailand known for its abundance of go-go bars and brothels.

They stayed in Pattaya at least two nights and cavorted with several female sex workers, one of whom was brought to Bangkok to identify the suspects on Thursday, said Lt. Col. Noppon Kuldiloke, a senior immigration police investigator in southern Thailand.

They drank and played snooker together, according to one of the women quoted in Friday’s Bangkok Post, which published a cellphone photo she took of the group. The image purportedly shows the three Iranians sitting around hookah water-pipes and a drink-filled table at a Middle Eastern-themed bar. Two of the men cradled women in their arms.

**ASIAN BRIEFS**

### Delhi court to try US terrorist Headley, 8 others

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—A New Delhi court agreed Saturday to try admitted American terrorist David Headley and eight others for allegedly carrying out the deadly 2008 attacks in Mumbai, local media reported. The court’s decision allows Indian investigators to seek Headley’s extradition from the United States, where he is in prison after admitting to laying the groundwork for the three-day shooting rampage in India’s largest city. However, his plea agreement with U.S. authorities said Headley would not be extradited if he cooperated with investigators. Headley last year was a U.S. government witness in the trial against Chicago businessman Tahawwur Rana, who was convicted of supporting the Lashkar-e-Taiba terror group and plotting an attack on a Danish newspaper but acquitted of charges involving the Mumbai attack.

(30 kilometers) from Goa’s capital of Panaji. The bus went into the river Saturday morning after the driver reportedly lost control. Police director general Kishan Kumar says the driver and conductor both jumped from the vehicle as it was falling and were unharmed. Goa’s government offered 200,000 rupees (\$4,000) in compensation to victims’ families, and canceled Goa’s annual three-day Carnival parades on Sunday in Panaji and other cities.

### Woman from Japan on Hawaii honeymoon dies in crash

**HONOLULU** (AP)—Authorities say a woman from Japan who was on her honeymoon in Hawaii is dead and her husband hospitalized after the couple crashed the motorcycle they were riding. The Star Advertiser reports the couple’s rented motorcycle crashed into a guardrail on Kamehameha Highway in Kaawa around 12:15 p.m. Friday. A supervisor with the Department of Emergency Medical Services says the newlyweds were not wearing helmets. The woman died after being taken to a hospital, while the man was listed in critical condition. Their names and hometowns have not been released, but officials say they were both 27 years old.

## Japan’s emperor, 78, has successful heart surgery



Empress Michiko, right, returns to the Imperial Palace from the University of Tokyo Hospital in Tokyo, Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012.

ing a blood vessel from another part of his body, Ono said.

He said the emperor nodded to him when asked how he felt while leaving the operating room, still waking up from the anesthetics.

Akihito even said “It feels good” when his wife, Empress Michiko, and their daughter Sayako gently massaged his hands as they visited his intensive care unit, Ono recounted.

Akihito is expected to be

released in about two or three weeks if there are no complications, the palace official said.

The soft-spoken Akihito holds no political power but is extremely popular with Japanese people as a symbol of the nation.

Although he is still generally in good health, Akihito has developed various health problems in recent years, including pneumonia late last year and prostate cancer in 2003. He has cut back on public duties but still appears regularly at events.

Asked if the surgery was a success, Amano said: “I’d like to save the word success until the emperor returns to his official duties and everyday life that he had hoped. We will continue to provide treatment, and we all look forward to the day.”

## China supports Arab League’s proposals for Syria

**BEIJING** (AP)—China said Saturday that it supports the Arab League’s proposals for ending the violence in Syria, a striking show of support just two weeks after Beijing vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution backing the league’s plans.

The seemingly contradictory stances on the Arab League’s proposals appear to reflect Beijing’s desire for mediation but aversion to U.N. involvement that could lead to authorizing force, as happened with Libya.

China conveyed its support for the Arab League’s proposals in a statement posted late Saturday on the Foreign Ministry’s website. That followed a meeting earlier in the day in Da-

mascus between Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhai Jun and Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The statement quoted Zhai as telling Assad that China was willing to work with the Syrian government and opposition, the Arab League and Arab countries to find a solution.

“China supports all the mediation efforts by the Arab League to find a political solution to the Syrian crisis and calls upon relevant parties to increase communication and negotiations to find a peaceful and appropriate solution to the Syrian crisis within the framework of the Arab League and on the basis of the Arab League’s relevant political solution proposals,” Zhai was

quoted as saying.

Also Saturday, a ruling party newspaper said in an editorial that China courageously defied the West when it opposed a nonbinding resolution in the U.N. General Assembly condemning human rights violations in Syria.

The vote against the resolution, which was overwhelming approved Thursday, indicates China’s rising influence in world affairs, the Global Times said.

“The country’s courage to truly express itself and to calmly stand its ground is worthy of merit,” the paper said.

“It is wrong to blindly come down on the side of the West in each vote,” it said.

Global Times is published by the Communist Party’s flagship People’s Daily newspaper and its editorials generally reflect the more pugnacious, jingoistic side of government opinion.

China, which carried out a bloody crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in 1989, has refused to condemn Syria over the violence.

Beijing’s authoritarian leaders generally oppose any moves that could lead to humanitarian interventions, such as last year’s NATO air campaign in Libya, and have themselves used overwhelming force against anti-government protests in Tibet and the traditionally Muslim northwestern region of Xinjiang.

### School bus falls into river, 7 dead in India

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—Police say a school bus plunged into a river and at least seven people were killed in the west-coast Indian resort state of Goa. Rescuers recovered the bodies of six children and one adult from the Kalvi River, about 18 miles

# World

## Iran poised for big nuclear jump

**VIENNA** (AP)—Iran is poised to greatly expand uranium enrichment at a fortified underground bunker to a point that would boost how quickly it could make nuclear warheads, diplomats tell The Associated Press.

They said Tehran has put finishing touches for the installation of thousands of new-generation centrifuges at the cavernous facility—machines that can produce enriched uranium much more quickly and efficiently than its present machines.

While saying that the electrical circuitry, piping and supporting equipment for the new centrifuges was now in place, the diplomats emphasized that Tehran had not started installing the new machines at its Fordo facility and could not say whether it was planning to.

Still, the senior diplomats—who asked for anonymity because their information was privileged—suggested that Tehran would have little reason to prepare the ground for the better centrifuges unless it planned to operate them. They spoke in recent interviews—the last one Saturday.

The reported work at Fordo appeared to reflect Iran's determination to forge ahead with nuclear activity that could be used to make atomic arms despite rapidly escalating international sanctions and the latent threat of an Israeli military strike on its nuclear facilities.



In this photo released by the Iranian President's Office, an Iranian technician works during a tour of the Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, unseen, at Tehran's research reactor centre in northern Tehran, Iran, Wednesday Feb. 15, 2012.

Fordo could be used to make fissile warhead material even without such an upgrade, the diplomats said.

They said that although older than Iran's new generation machines, the centrifuges now

operating there can be reconfigured within days to make such material because they already are enriching to 20 percent—a level that can be boosted quickly to weapons-grade quality.

Their comments appeared to

represent the first time anyone had quantified the time it would take to reconfigure the Fordo centrifuges into machines making weapons-grade material.

In contrast, Iran's older enrichment site at Natanz is producing uranium at 3.4 percent, a level normally used to power reactors. While that too could be turned into weapons-grade uranium, reassembling from low to weapons-grade production is complex, and retooling the thousands of centrifuges at Natanz would likely take weeks.

The diplomats' recent comments came as International

**AP EXCLUSIVE**

secretly working on nuclear weapons that would be armed with uranium enriched to 90 percent or more.

Diplomats accredited to the IAEA expect little from that visit. They told the AP that—as before—Iran was refusing to allow the agency experts to visit Parchin, the suspected site of explosives testing for

a nuclear weapon and had turned down other key requests made by the experts.

Iranian officials deny nuclear weapons aspirations, saying the claims are based on bogus intelligence from the U.S. and Israel.

But IAEA chief Yukiya Amano has said there are increasing indications of such activity. His concerns were outlined in 13-page summary late last year listing clandestine activities that either can be used in civilian or military nuclear programs, or “are specific to nuclear weapons.”

Among these were indications that Iran has conducted high explosives testing and detonator development to set off a nuclear charge, as well as computer modeling of a core of a nuclear warhead.

## Syrian forces fire on funeral in Damascus, kill 1

**BEIRUT** (AP)—Syrian security forces fired live rounds and tear gas Saturday at thousands of people marching in a funeral procession that turned into one of the largest protests in Damascus since the 11-month uprising against President Bashar Assad began.

The new violence broke out during a visit by a Chinese envoy, who said his country will back a solution to the crisis based on proposals already put forward by the Arab League—even though Beijing is unlikely to support the regional bloc's call for Assad to step aside.

China, along with Russia, recently supported Damascus by vetoing a U.N. Security Council resolution that would have condemned Assad's regime. During his visit Saturday to Syria, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zhai Jun urged dialogue and called on all parties to stop violence that has killed more than 5,400 people since March of last year.

Zhai's trip appeared to be part of Beijing's efforts to deflect some of the stinging international criticism over its Feb. 4 veto of the Security Council resolution with stepped-up diplomacy, following the example set by Russia.

Syria was also getting support from Iran, its closest ally in the Middle East. Iranian state-

run Press TV said two Iranian navy ships have docked in the Syrian port of Tartus to provide maritime training to Syria's naval forces under an agreement signed between the two countries a year ago.

Iran's semiofficial Mehr news agency said the fleet consisted of a destroyer and a supply ship. The report said the vessels arrived Friday, a day after they received permission from the Egyptian armed forces to sail through the Suez Canal into the Mediterranean Sea on their way to the Syrian coast. The reports could not be confirmed and there was no official comment from Syria.

In Damascus, several people were wounded when security forces opened fire on mourners at the funeral procession in the Mazzeh district. Activists including the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said one person was killed.

## Honduran inmates tell of horror as hundreds die

**COMAYAGUA, Honduras** (AP)—Jose Enrique Guevara woke up to screams and a flash of heat from the fire about to engulf his prison bunk bed.

As flames devoured men around him and tore at his back, Guevara bolted for a corner, seeking to escape the conflagration. But the only door to the overcrowded barracks was locked.

“You can't imagine what it's like, knowing that everyone is burning, hearing and seeing how they cry as they're eaten by flames,” said Guevara, 33, who was serving an 11-year sentence for auto theft in the Comayagua prison. “It all happened in seconds.”

As scores around him died, Guevara survived only by a fellow inmate's act of heroism: the man picked up a bench and smashed the lock.

Only three of 105 inmates in his dormitory survived the worst prison fire in a century.

In all, 358 perished in the blaze that broke out just before 11 p.m. local time Tuesday, including a woman who had come to the medium-security farm prison to spend Valentine's Day with her husband.

Flames rapidly devoured five of 10 brick barracks as rescuers waited nearly half an hour to enter, saying they were deterred by guards and gunfire. By week's end, investigators and bereaved family members were spreading conflicting versions of what happened.

One theory was that a prisoner, drugged up and angry, set fire to his mattress after no one visited him on a day celebrating love.

Others claimed the fire was started by two prisoners fighting over a mattress. Some enraged family members said it was set intentionally by guards who shot at the inmates, much like a 2003 prison fire in Honduras that killed 69.

The prison was at double capacity, 852 men supervised that night by only six guards. One of them, Fidel Tejada, said he saw flames from his watch tower and fired into the air to signal an emergency. He said laws prohibited him from leaving his post to help with a rescue.

Prisoners' metal bunks were not only stacked four high, but were tightly packed in rows, filled with clothes and other belongings and separated by curtains the men set up for privacy. Guevara ran a little store on the side, selling cigarettes, sodas and candy that he kept by his bed. Some men had gas and matches.

It all became fuel in a packed and locked room.

More than half the inmates were still awaiting trial. Many of those who died had been locked up for petty crimes: stealing a wallet, robbing a truck. Some had never been charged.

## Egypt sets NGO trial date, escalating rift with US

**CAIRO** (AP)—Egypt said Saturday the criminal trial of 16 Americans and 27 others will start Feb. 26 in a politically charged case against foreign-funded pro-democracy groups that has badly shaken Cairo's ties with Washington.

The trial represents an escalation in what has become the deepest crisis in U.S.-Egypt relations in decades. American officials have threatened to cut \$1.5 billion in aid over the spat, and high-level officials have flown in to seek a solution. Egyptian authorities have responded by blasting what they call U.S. meddling in legal affairs.

The growing spat also shows the uncertain path Egypt's military rulers are charting more than one year after a popular uprising pushed President Hosni Mubarak from power. During his nearly 30-year rule, the U.S. tolerated Mubarak's antidemocratic policies and continued to fund his government, knowing he'd uphold Egypt's peace treaty with Israel.

Now, the ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces

regularly accuses “foreign hands” of backing continued protests against its rule, and the Islamist parties that control about two-thirds of the newly elected parliament have threatened to review the peace treaty with Israel.

The investigation into the pro-democracy and rights groups fits into the wider campaign against alleged foreign influence since Mubarak's ouster.

The probe began in December, when armed security forces raided the offices of 10 non-profit groups, shutting their offices after carting off files and computers.

Egypt's state news agency said Saturday the trial of 43 defendants in the case will begin Feb. 26. The report said 16 of the defendants are Egyptians and 19 are Americans, and the rest are Germans, Palestinians and Jordanians. The U.S. State Department, however, has said there are only 16 Americans facing trial.

The Americans work for four U.S.-based groups: the International Republican Institute, the National Democratic Institute,

# Focus

## NYPD monitored Muslim students all over Northeast

**NEW YORK (AP)**—The New York Police Department monitored Muslim college students far more broadly than previously known, at schools far beyond the city limits, including the Ivy League colleges of Yale and the University of Pennsylvania, The Associated Press has learned.

Police talked with local authorities about professors 300 miles away in Buffalo and even sent an undercover agent on a whitewater rafting trip, where he recorded students' names and noted in police intelligence files how many times they prayed.

Detectives trawled Muslim student websites every day and, although professors and students had not been accused of any wrongdoing, their names were recorded in reports prepared for Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly.

Asked about the monitoring, police spokesman Paul Browne provided a list of 12 people arrested or convicted on terrorism charges in the United States and abroad who had once been members of Muslim student associations, which the NYPD referred to as MSAs. Jesse Morton, who this month pleaded guilty to posting online threats against the creators of "South Park," had once tried to recruit followers at Stony Brook University on Long Island, Browne said.

"As a result, the NYPD deemed it prudent to get a better handle on what was occurring at MSAs," Browne said in an email. He said police monitored student websites and collected publicly available information, but did so only between 2006 and 2007.

"I see a violation of civil rights here," said Tanweer Haq, chaplain of the Muslim Student Association at Syracuse. "Nobody wants to be on the list of the FBI or the NYPD or whatever. Muslim students want to have their own lives, their own privacy and enjoy the same freedoms and opportunities that everybody else has."

In recent months, the AP has revealed secret programs the NYPD, built with help from the CIA, to monitor Muslims at the places where they eat, shop and worship. The AP also published details about how police placed undercover officers at Muslim student associations in colleges within the city limits; this revelation has outraged faculty and student groups.

Though the NYPD says it follows the same rules as the FBI, some of the NYPD's activities go beyond what the FBI is allowed to do.

Kelly and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg repeatedly have said that the police only follow legitimate leads about suspected criminal activi-

ty.

But the latest documents mention no wrongdoing by any students.

In one report, an undercover officer describes accompanying 18 Muslim students from the City College of New York on a whitewater rafting trip in upstate New York on April 21, 2008. The officer noted the names of attendees who were officers of the Muslim Student Association.

"In addition to the regularly scheduled events (Rafting), the group prayed at least four times a day, and much of the conversation was spent discussing Islam and was religious in nature," the report says.

Praying five times a day is one of the core traditions of Islam.

Jawad Rasul, one of the students on the trip, said he was stunned that his name was included in the police report.

"It forces me to look around wherever I am now," Rasul said.

But another student, Ali Ahmed, whom the NYPD said appeared to be in charge of the trip, said he understood the police department's concern.

"I can't blame them for doing their job," Ahmed said. "There's lots of Muslims doing some bad things and it gives a bad name to all of us, so they have to take their due diligence."

City College criticized the surveillance and said it was unaware the NYPD was watching students.

"The City College of New York does not accept or condone any investigation of any student organization based on the political or religious content of its ideas," the college said in a written statement.

"Absent specific evidence linking a member of the City College community to criminal activity, we do not condone this kind of investigation."

Browne said undercover officers go wherever people they're investigating go. There is no indication that, in the nearly four years since the report, the NYPD brought charges connecting City College students to terrorism.

Student groups were of particular interest to the NYPD because they attract young Muslim men, a demographic that terrorist groups frequently draw from. Police worried about which Muslim scholars were influencing these students and feared that extracurricular activities such as paintball outings could be used as terrorist training.

The AP first reported in October that the NYPD had placed informants or undercover officers in the Muslim Student Associations at City College, Brooklyn College,



This Thursday, Feb. 16, 2012 photo shows Jawad Rasul near the City College of New York where he is a student.

Baruch College, Hunter College, City College of New York, Queens College, La Guardia Community College and St. John's University. All of those colleges are within the New York City limits.

A person familiar with the program, who like others insisted on anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss it, said the NYPD also had a student informant at Syracuse.

Police also were interested in the Muslim student group at Rutgers, in New Brunswick, N.J. In 2009, undercover NYPD officers had a safe house in an apartment not far from campus. The operation was blown when the building superintendent stumbled upon the safe house and, thinking it was some sort of a terrorist cell, called 911.

The FBI responded and determined that monitoring Rutgers students was one of the operation's objectives, current and former federal officials said.

The Rutgers police chief at the time, Rhonda Harris, would not discuss the fallout. In a written statement, university spokesman E.J. Miranda said: "The university was not aware of this at the time and we have nothing to add on this matter."

Another NYPD intelligence report from Jan. 2, 2009, described a trip by three NYPD officers to Buffalo, where they met with a high-ranking mem-

ber, Baruch College, Brooklyn College and La Guardia Community College.

"Students who advertised events or sent emails about regular events should not be worried about a 'terrorism file' being kept on them. NYPD only investigated persons who we had reasonable suspicion to believe might be involved in unlawful activities," Browne said.

But such assurances seem to offer little comfort to some former students. One University at Buffalo student, Adeela Khan, did end up in a police report after receiving an email on Nov. 9, 2006, announcing an upcoming Islamic conference in Toronto. The email said "highly respected scholars" would be attending, but did not say who or give any details of the program. Khan says she clicked "forward," sent it to a Yahoo chat group of fellow Muslims and promptly forgot about it.

"A couple people had gone the year prior and they said they had a really nice time, so I was just passing the information on forward. That's really all it was," said Khan, who has since graduated.

Khan was a board member of the Muslim Student Association at the University at Buffalo at the time. She says she never went to the conference, was not affiliated with it and had no idea who was speaking at it.

But officer Mahmood Ahmad of the NYPD's Cyber Intelligence Unit took notice and listed Khan in his weekly report for Kelly.

The officer began researching the Toronto conference and found that one of the speakers, Tariq Ramadan, had his U.S. visa revoked in 2004. The U.S. government said it was because Ramadan had given money to a Palestinian group. It reinstated his visa in 2010.

The officer's report notes three other speakers. One, Siraj Wahaj, is a prominent but controversial New York imam who has attracted the attention of authorities for years. Prosecutors included his name on a 3 1/2-page list of people they said "may be alleged as co-conspirators" in the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, though he was never charged.

The other two are Hamza Yusuf and Zaid Shakir, two of the nation's most prominent Muslim scholars. Both have lectured at top universities in the U.S.. Yusuf met with President George W. Bush at the White House following the 2001 terrorist attacks.

The post about the academic event was enough to get Khan's name mentioned in the weekly MSA report, which was stamped "SECRET" in red letters and sent to Kelly's office.

There is no indication that the investigation went any further, or that Khan was ever implicated in anything. But she worries about being associated with the police report.

"It's just a waste of resources, if you ask me," she said. "I understand why they're doing it, but it's just kind of like a Catch-22. I'm not the one doing anything wrong."

The university said it was unaware its students were being monitored. "UB does not conduct this kind of surveillance and if asked, UB would not voluntarily cooperate with such a request," the university said in a written statement. "As a public university, UB strongly supports the values of freedom of speech and assembly, freedom of religion, and a reasonable expectation of privacy."

The same Nov. 22, 2006, report also noted seminars announced on the websites of the Muslim student associations at New York University and Rutgers University's campus in Newark, N.J.

Browne, the police department spokesman, said intelligence analysts were interested in recruiting by the Islamic Thinkers Society, a New York-based group that wants to see the United States governed under Islamic law. Morton was a leader of the group and went to Stony Brook University's MSA to recruit students that same month.

"One thing that our open source searches were interested in determining at the time was, where do Islamic Thinkers Society go—in terms of MSAs for recruiting," Browne said.

Yale declined comment. The University of Pennsylvania did not immediately respond to requests for comment. Other colleges on the list said they worried the monitoring infringed on students' freedom of speech.

"Like New York City itself, American universities are admired across the globe as places that welcome a diversity of people and viewpoints. So we would obviously be concerned about anything that could chill our essential values of academic freedom or intrude on student privacy," Columbia University spokesman Robert Hornsby said in a written statement.

Danish Munir, an alumnus adviser for the University of Pennsylvania's Muslim Student Association, said he believes police are wasting their time by watching college students.

"What do they expect to find here?" Munir said. "These are all kids coming from rich families or good families, and they're just trying to make a living, have a good career, have a good college experience. It's a futile allocation of resources."

## Health & Fitness

# Nearly 1 in 20 US adults over 50 have fake knees



In this Feb. 4, 2012 photo, Donna Brent, 63, works out her leg at her home in Deerfield, Ill. Brent says decades of racket ball, tennis, softball and other sports took a toll on her knees, but she got used to living with the pain, even when she became bow-legged and developed a limp.

**CHICAGO** (AP)—Nearly 1 in 20 Americans older than 50 have artificial knees, or more than 4 million people, according to the first national estimate showing how common these replacement joints have become in an aging population.

Doctors know the number of knee replacement operations has surged in the past decade, especially in baby boomers. But until now, there was no good fix on the total number of people living with them.

The estimate is important because it shows that a big segment of the population might need future knee-related care, said Dr. Daniel Berry, president of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons and chairman of orthopedic surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He was not involved in the research.

People with knee replacements

sometimes develop knee infections or scar tissue that require additional treatment. But also, even artificial knees wear out, so as the operations are increasingly done on younger people, many will live long enough to almost certainly need a second or even third knee replacement.

The new estimate comes in an analysis being presented Friday at the academy's annual meeting in San Francisco.

"These data are sobering because we didn't know what an army of people we've created over the last decade," said Elena Losina, lead author of the analysis and co-director of the Orthopedics and Arthritis Center for Outcomes Research at Harvard's Brigham and Women's Hospital. "The numbers will only increase, based on current trends."

Replacement joints can greatly improve quality of life for people with worn-out knees, but they're not risk-

free and it's a major operation that people should not take lightly, she said.

Modern knee replacements in the United States date back to the 1970s. Since then, advances in materials and techniques, including imaging scans to create better-fitting joints, have made the implants more durable and lifelike, surgeons say.

Losina and colleagues came up with their estimate by analyzing national data on the number of knee replacements done from 1998-2009, U.S. census data, death statistics and national health surveys.

For example, in 2009, more than 600,000 knee replacement operations were done nationwide. The study estimate includes people who had knee replacement operations that year and in previous years who are still living.

Overall, 4.5 million Americans are living with artificial knees. That in-

cludes an estimated 500,000 who have had at least two replacement operations on the same knee.

Knee replacements are most common in people older than 80—1 in 10 people in this age range have them, the study found. Though they're less prevalent in people younger than that, there are still more than half a million Americans in their 50s with the artificial joints, and based on current trends, operations in that age group are expected to increase.

According to the federal Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, knee replacements tripled in people ages 45 to 64 between 1997 and 2009.

Doctors think two trends have contributed to that increase: the nation's obesity epidemic and amateur athletes who don't adjust workouts to spare aging or even injured joints. Both can lead to or worsen arthritis, the main reason for replacing knees.

Donna Brent, 63, is in the latter category. The Deerfield, Ill., administrative assistant says decades of racket ball, tennis, softball and other sports took a toll on her knees, but she got used to living with the pain, even when she became bowlegged and de-

veloped a limp. When pain "started getting in the way of some of my sports," she gave in to her doctor's advice and had the operation last June on her right knee. She said she feels better than ever, is back to exercising and plans to resume tennis and softball when the weather warms up.

During knee replacement operations, surgeons slice off a small portion of the worn-out surface on the ends of both leg bones that meet at the knee, then implant an artificial joint usually made of plastic or metal. Typical operations last about two hours, require a few days in the hospital, and cost roughly \$40,000.

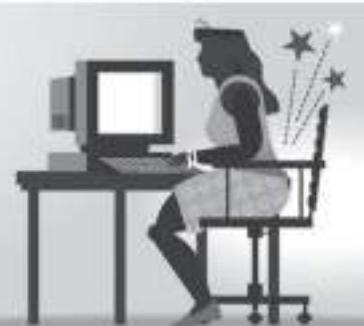
Artificial knees generally last 15 to 20 years. While some are promoted as lasting 30 years, these estimates are generally based on use among older people more sedentary than baby boomers who expect new knees to let them be as active as they were before surgery. Sometimes that's possible, though doctors often discourage knee replacement patients from engaging in high-impact sports including jogging.

The National Institute of Arthritis, Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases paid for the study.

### Personal Trainer

#### Good posture

*This exercise can be a revelation for people who work long hours hunched over a computer keyboard or sit slumped into their chair.*



**1** Stand with your back and heels against a wall and gradually:

- Pull in stomach
- Tilt hips backward to flatten back against wall
- Hold rib cage up
- Relax shoulders
- Lower chin slightly

**2** Step away from wall, relax for a few seconds and make a mental check of your relaxed muscles

- Without moving them, imagine your shoulder muscles and those behind your neck lengthening, widening and relaxing



**3** Imagine a line going from the crown of your head to the soles of your feet

- Without moving, relax and imagine the line stretching, with its top rising toward the ceiling and its bottom sinking into the floor

*This should bring you to an unfamiliar place, with the core of your body aligned and your major muscles stretched out and relaxed.*

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Graphic: Paul Trap

Source: "The Essential Guide to Stretching" by Chrissie Gallagher-Mundy

# Life & Style

## Khloe Kardashian on 'active' sex life, Dallas move

**NEW YORK** (AP)—Kim may be the Kardashian family member considered to have the most drama in her life, but sister Khloe has had her fair share lately.

Her husband, Lamar Odom, was abruptly traded last December by the Los Angeles Lakers to the Dallas Mavericks.

The transition is one of the events documented in the second season of the E! Entertainment Television series "Khloe and Lamar," which premieres Sunday.

The 27-year-old Kardashian Odom talked about their move to Dallas and the couple's "active" sex life in a recent interview.

**AP:** The new season of "Khloe and Lamar" will show Lamar being traded to the Mavericks. People might not realize there's no notice with something like that.

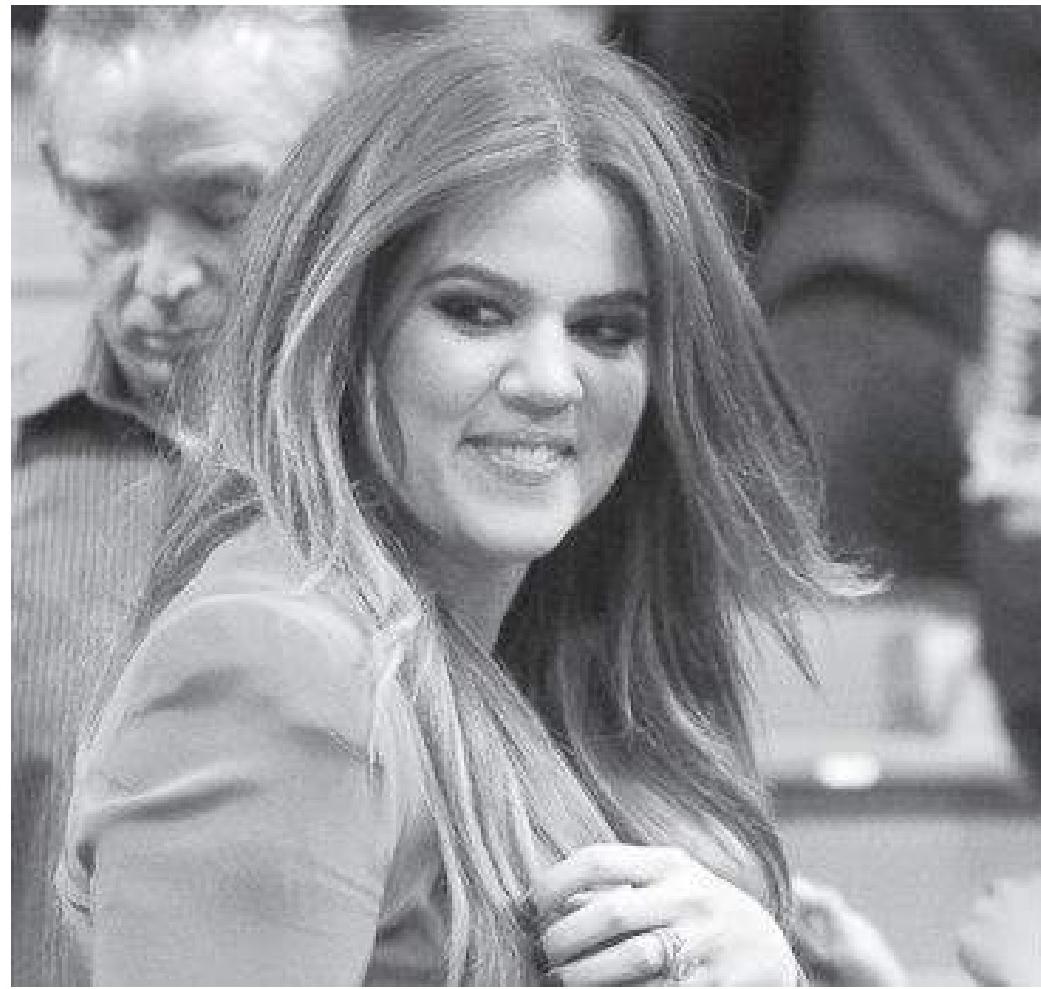
**Kardashian Odom:** You get to see kind of an inside view of how fast it happens. I stayed behind so I could pack and figure out what to do. ... Moving in general is stressful, so moving to a state that I've never been in is stressful. Then when your husband's having a very emotional transition, that's like adding one more layer to this. Then I'm having the camera crew film and for them, they love it. They're like, 'This is gold!' I'm like, 'Can't you just leave us alone for one week?' But, you know, that's what you know we signed up for.

**AP:** You're often spotted at your husband's games and often with a camera.

**Kardashian Odom:** I'm like a soccer mom.

**AP:** Yes! Are you proud of him?

**Kardashian Odom:** I'm proud of him. I've had a very supportive family. Lamar has no siblings, and so I want him to know that someone is always at his games supporting him. I



In this Dec. 26, 2011 file photo, Khloe Kardashian during a NBA basketball game between the Dallas Mavericks and the Denver Nuggets in Dallas. Kardashian stars a reality TV show "Khloe & Lamar" alongside her husband, Dallas Mavericks forward Lamar Odom.

wasn't able to be at one home game and so my brother went for me. I always want Lamar to know someone is at his games supporting him.

**AP:** Are you trying to get pregnant?

**Kardashian Odom:** I was writing down my ovulation days, but it took the fun out of trying to get pregnant in my opinion and for Lamar, too. We were both like, 'OK, this is like, I don't want to be told, when (to have sex)' ... like it's too much and it's too strategic. It's supposed to be romantic, so I now stopped all of that. ... We're enjoying each other, we have a very active love life.

**AP:** Does the attention about it bother you?

**Kardashian Odom:** I think we got married so fast, I think people expected us to have a baby. Now people want to spin it to make it seem like it's something bigger, like I'm doing all of these fertility treatments or I can't carry a baby or whatever the case may be. It doesn't offend me and it doesn't bother me. ... When it's meant to be, it will be.

**AP:** On the last season of your sisters' reality show, "Kourtney and Kim Take New York," one thing that seemed to happen is (Kourtney's boyfriend) Scott (Disick) redeemed himself and people started to

like him. Have you noticed that? (In previous reality shows about the Kardashian family, Disick was depicted as having anger issues and possibly drinking too much.)

**Kardashian Odom:** I've definitely noticed a change and he's trying. He's a great dad. ... Also, when you re-watch your episodes of the TV shows, for me like even if I talk to my mom a certain way I'm like, 'Oh that's so nasty,' and I try to work on it. Maybe he does the same thing. I've definitely noticed a growth in him. And there was so much other drama going on (with sister Kim's 72-day marriage to Kris Humphries), I think it made him look better, too.

around the world are already trying to get their hands on one of the 10,000 figures handed out at Saturday night's game.

Cooper participated in the ceremonial puck drop with a military serviceman and watched the game with one of the largest crowds of the season at Jobing.com Arena. The 64-year-old rocker hopes the franchise will find an owner who will keep the team in Phoenix so he can attend many more in the future.

"We need to be a four-sport city, and it's the only sport that I constantly go to," Cooper said. "I go to a couple of baseball and basketball games and maybe one football game a year, but I go to a lot of hockey games so I don't want to see it move. It's too good a franchise to leave. And go to Hamilton (Ontario)? Come on."

When it comes to hockey, school's never out for Cooper.

## Alice Cooper gets first bobblehead

**GLENDALE, Ariz.** (AP)—Rocker Alice Cooper's shows include guillotines, fake blood, electric chairs, the occasional boa constrictor.

So when it comes to sports, there's no surprise which sport he loves: hockey.

Hard hits, speed, adrenaline, some real blood—it's a perfect fit.

"Hockey just never stops," Cooper said before the Phoenix Coyotes played the Dallas Stars on Saturday night. "It's like rock 'n' roll—it's relentless."

Cooper has become known in the sports world for his love of golf, playing in all those celebrity tournaments, whenever he can when he's not on the road touring.

But golf is a relatively recent love. Hockey has a much more deep-rooted hold on him.

keep saying the game should be called OOOH! because I do that 20 times a night: go OOOH! It's by far the most fun sport to watch live."

One of Arizona's most famous residents, Cooper has attended dozens of Coyotes games and has an in-depth knowledge of the team, its players and the game in general.

Even after he became the king of shock rock, Cooper kept up with hockey and has been a fervent and knowledgeable Coyotes fan since the team moved from Winnipeg in 1996.

"You can go see a baseball game, basketball, football, there's never a game where you jump out of your seat as at a hockey game," said Cooper, a recent inductee into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. "I

thought it was going to be a little piece of plastic, but this thing has some weight to it. It's a real bobblehead," Cooper said, adding that his fans from

## Flash mobs, elegant gowns dominate London fashion

**LONDON** (AP)—Stella McCartney used a flash mob, Issa relied on colorful floral prints, and Alice Temperley turned to 18th Century paintings for inspiration as London Fashion Week moved into high gear Saturday.

It was a day of elegant, sexy dresses, raucous performances, and beautiful detailing as London designers showed what makes their fashion approach unique.

While some designers looked to the east for inspiration, Kinder Aggugini set his sights on cowboy chic, evoking the streets of Laredo in an impressive catwalk show that used acid-drench silk with western motifs.

The imaginative shows left little doubt that London's sense of self-reliance is growing as the 2012 Olympics approach. Britain may be gripped by economic gloom, but the designers see no reason for pessimism.

"Things are difficult business-wise," Aggugini said before his show. "But it has sparked creativity. I see a lot more talent germinating. I see a lot more newness than I ever did."

McCartney certainly tried something new, turning her back on the traditional catwalk show and instead having a group of models dressed in her creations emerge from a sitdown dinner for an unusual, choreographed romp.

The models were passed on chairs held high by waiters and gyrated on tables with abandon, rarely slowing down enough to give the audience a careful look at the gowns.

But what they could see looked great.

"It was a good idea, and she made it work," said former model Bianca Jagger, wearing a signature white suit. "It was nice to see something different, something dramatic. The clothes looked great. And the food was delicious."

The menu included duck with black truffles, chestnuts and Jerusalem artichokes, beetroots with Sicilian blood

oranges, saffron risotto, and Wigmore cheese with still more black truffles, along with a variety of wines and Veuve Clicquot champagne.

Brazilian designer Daniella Helayel, whose label is known as Issa, also scored with audiences Saturday night.

Long a favorite of the former Kate Middleton (now the Duchess of Cambridge), Helayel made liberal use of furry caps and fur trim around the shoulders, the brown and gray nicely offsetting her dresses' forest greens and splashes of red. The prints were radiant, with oversize floral motifs, and red-and-blue swirls that looked like the models were wrapped in bubbling lava.

"I loved the really juicy colors," said Bobby Jackson, a 36-year-old chef from Vancouver who came to see the show with a friend. "The paisley prints are very hot this season."

The colorful shows offset a certain severity that developed early Saturday.

John Rocha draped his models in voluminous black dresses that clung to their bodies like trash bags. Jasper Conran showed off a set of austere-looking brown, bronze, and black creations that harkened back to 1920s trench coats or even 19th-century bloomers. Even young designer Henry Holland—whose work tends to be quite eye-catching—went with patterned clothes mainly in blue, black or crimson.

Rocha's billowing black menswear was among the most original of the lot, although the work may not find much purchase outside the Goth community. Black lace, black leather-looking sleeves, black veils and webbed tops were in evidence, as well as what looked like furry black leg-warmers. Cut-aways and veils added a touch of sex to the show, but some creations—like the Dublin-based designer's big rumpled greenish dress—looked as if their models had fallen into upscale supermarket sacks.



A model displays a creation by designer John Rocha during a fashion show at London Fashion Week, Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012.

# Whitney Houston's voice soars at hometown funeral

**NEWARK, N.J.** (AP)—After all the testimonials from relatives and friends, the songs from legends and pop stars, the preaching and even laughter, the raw emotion of Whitney Houston's funeral came down to just one moment: The sound of her own voice.

As the strains of her biggest record, "I Will Always Love You," filled the New Hope Baptist Church at the end of the nearly four-hour service Saturday and her silver-and-gold casket was lifted in the air, the weight of the moment was too much for mother, gospel singer Cissy Houston, to bear. As she was held up by two women, she wailed, "My baby! My baby!" as she was led out the church behind her daughter's body.

A few steps behind her was the pop icon's daughter, Bobbi Kristina, also crying uncontrollably as she was comforted by Houston's close friend, singer Ray J.

It was the most searing scene on a day with mixed moods as family, friends and a list celebrities—sometimes one in the same—came to the humble New Hope Baptist Church where she first wowed a congregation to remember one of music's legends, but also a New Jersey hometown girl.

Houston died last Saturday in Beverly Hills, Calif., on the eve of the Grammys at the age of 48. Her death marked the end of a life that was marked by stunning achievements: Blessed with a voice of great power and beauty, Houston became one of pop music's most successful artists over a career that spanned nearly three decades and segued into film with hits like "The Bodyguard."

But her struggles with drugs and very public fall from grace during tumultuous times, including a union with ex-husband Bobby Brown, were among the many valleys in her life.

Both sides of Houston were recalled at the service at New Hope, which was filled with about 300 mourners, including Oprah Winfrey, Tyler Perry, Alicia Keys, Mariah Carey, Mary J. Blige, Forest Whitaker.

## Bobby Brown briefly appears at Houston funeral

**NEWARK, N.J.** (AP)—Whitney Houston's ex-husband, Bobby Brown briefly appeared at her funeral before leaving.

Brown arrived as the service began. He walked to the casket, touched it and walked to the back of the church Saturday.

Brown says in a statement that he and his children were seated but asked repeatedly to move. Brown says he left be-

ker, Jennifer Hudson, Diane Sawyer and Houston's cousin, Dionne Warwick.

"She was someone with a charmed and a beautiful life, sometimes misunderstood, even by herself," said her sister-in-law and manager, Patricia Houston. "But a life nevertheless that gave joy, happiness, enthusiasm, peace and beautiful music to millions of people around the world."

Kevin Costner, her co-star in "The Bodyguard," said for all of Houston's beauty and success, she was still yearning for approval from the public—and still somewhat insecure, a superstar who "still wondered, 'Am I good enough? Am I pretty enough? Will they like me?'"

"It's a tree we could all hang from—the unexplainable burden that comes with fame," he said. "Call it doubt. call it fear. I've had mine. And I know the famous in the room have had theirs."

Many who spoke talked about Houston's unshakable faith in Jesus Christ, which got her through some of her most difficult times.

Perry recalled a conversation where Houston would look sad when reflecting on her troubles, but then would hasten to add that God was taking care of her.

"The other thing I know for sure—and this is more important than anything that she's done in her life—Whitney Houston loved the Lord," he said.

Fittingly, music played a major role in the send-off to one of music's greatest voices.

Stevie Wonder rewrote lyrics to "Ribbon in the Sky" for Houston—"you will always be a ribbon in the sky," he sang.

So did gospel's the Rev. Kim Burrell for "A Change Is Gonna Come," which Warwick said was Houston's favorite song of all time. R. Kelly brought the New Hope Baptist Church to its feet with a stirring version of "I Look to You," the title of Houston's final studio album.

And Keys, her voice breaking at times, dedicated her song "Send Me An Angel," to Houston.

Brown briefly appeared at her



A coffin holding the remains of singer Whitney Houston is carried into the New Hope Baptist Church before her funeral services in Newark, N.J. on Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012.

funeral, walking to the casket, touching it and walking out. He later said in a statement that he and his children were asked repeatedly to move and he left rather than risk creating a scene.

Close family friend Aretha Franklin, whom Houston lovingly called "Aunt Ree," had been expected to sing at the service, but said early Saturday she was too ill to attend.

Franklin said in an email to The Associated Press that she had been up most of the night with leg spasms and sent best wishes to the family.

Warwick presided over the funeral, introducing speakers and singers and offering short insights about her cousin; she joked that Houston's Super Bowl performance of "The Star Spangled Banner" became almost as big as the telephone book.

Hudson, who sang "I Will Always Love You" a night after Houston's death in a Grammy tribute, mourned Houston along with Monica, Brandy, and Jordin Sparks—representing a generation of big-voiced young singers who grew up emulating the star of the '80s and '90s. Sparks stars with Houston in the remake of the 1970s film "Sparkle," due out in August.

As the funeral began, mourners fell quiet as three police offi-

cers escorted Houston's casket, draped with white roses and purple lilies. White-robed choir members began to fill the pews on the podium. As the band played softly, the choir sang in a hushed voice, "Whitney, Whitney, Whitney."

A program featuring a picture of Houston looking skyward read "Celebrating the life of Whitney Elizabeth Houston, a child of God." Pictures of Houston as a baby, with her mother and daughter filled the program.

## Loss amid normalcy at hotel where Whitney died

**BEVERLY HILLS, Calif.** (AP)—As the soulful funeral of Whitney Houston played out a continent away, it was largely business as usual at the glamorous place where the singer died one week earlier. Yet from the fourth floor to the sidewalk out front, a sense of loss prevailed Saturday at the Beverly Hilton Hotel.

Houston was found dead Feb. 11 in the bathtub of her fourth-floor room, just a few hours before she was to attend record executive Clive Davis' annual pre-Grammy party in the ballroom downstairs.

Tourists milled about the Beverly Hilton's vast lobby Saturday morning while Houston's celebrity-studded funeral aired live from New Hope Baptist Church in Newark, N.J. It was in stark contrast to last weekend's chaotic hotel scene of photographers, police, paramedics and fans.

Lined with black-and-white photos of Hollywood stars, the hallway on the fourth floor where Houston died was empty and silent, and without

Later Saturday, Brown was performing in Connecticut with New Edition. He appeared energetic and smiling and thanked the crowd for keeping his spirits up. At one point, he pointed his finger to the sky and said, "Blessings to my ex-wife, Whitney Houston. I love you."

Houston died Feb. 11. A cause of death hasn't been determined.

Houston and Brown were married 15 years and have one daughter together. Their tumultuous relationship ended in 2007.

The actor spoke Saturday at Houston's funeral in New-

"I never told you that when you were born, the Holy Spirit told me that you would not be with me long," Cissy Houston wrote her daughter in a letter published in the program. "And I thank God for the beautiful flower he allowed me to raise and cherish for 48 years."

"Rest, my baby girl in peace," the letter ends, signed "mommie."

To the world, Houston was the pop queen with the perfect voice, the dazzling diva with re-

security. Only housekeeping staff could be seen going room to room. Houston's suite will remain vacant indefinitely, according to the hotel.

Downstairs, at the Circa 55 Restaurant, a bar area with the eatery's only televisions remained mostly empty for the three-and-a-half-hour memorial service. Instead, guests seemed to favor a sunny poolside dining area nearby. With the Oscars just a week away, life goes on in Hollywood.

But even if most folks chose to avoid publicly watching the funeral, some grieved in their own personal way.

Hotel guest Matthew Ingram, 57, of San Francisco stopped to watch part of the funeral on his way from breakfast and became overwhelmed with emotion when recalling his love and appreciation for Houston.

"You feel the connection, being here. That's half the reason my wife and I chose to stay here for four days was because of her, Whitney, and also to see my sister," he said. "We have all of Whitney's records. Everybody's

## Costner: Houston overcame doubts to be great

**NEWARK, N.J.** (AP)—

Kevin Costner is remembering his "Bodyguard" costar Whitney Houston for her ability to overcome her doubts to achieve greatness and for her distinctive talent.

The actor spoke Saturday at Houston's funeral in New-

ark beauty, a troubled superstar suffering from addiction and, finally, another victim of the dark side of fame. To her family and friends, she was just "Nippy." A nickname given to Houston when she was a child, it stuck with her through adulthood and, later, would become the name of one of her companies.

A few fans gathered hours before the service as close as they could get to the church, some from as far away as Washington, D.C., and Miami. Bobby Brooks said he came from Washington "just to be among the rest of the fans."

"Just to celebrate her life, not just her death," said Brooks, "just to sing and dance with the people that love her."

Others were more entrepreneurial, setting up card tables to sell silk-screened T-shirts with Houston's image and her CDs. Fans were kept blocks from the church and the invitation-only funeral, but their presence was felt. A huge shrine of heart-shaped balloons and personal messages that covered the street corner around the church entrance.

Houston's death marked the final chapter for the superstar whose fall from grace was years in the making. Houston had her first No. 1 hit by the time she was 22, followed by a flurry of No. 1 songs and multi-platinum records.

connected to her through her music, her charm, her beauty."

The ultimate homage to Houston, said Ingram, was going up to the room where she died.

"We went to the fourth floor yesterday. You close your eyes, standing there," he said, starting to cry.

Just outside the hotel, a growing make-shift memorial to Houston was spread out on the sidewalk.

Shiny red "Happy Valentine's Day" balloons waved back and forth in the breeze. Colorful flowers, furry teddy bears and pictures of a smiling Houston sat next to lit votive candles and dozens of condolence notes. A small but steady stream of fans took photos as they passed by on foot and in cars and tour buses.

One note scrawled in black marker, accented by a drawing of a teddy bear holding a heart, read, "To the most beautiful voice in the world. We love you Whitney." Yet another longer letter began, "I'm sorry you had to go through everything you went through. You were too young to go."

## Costner: Houston overcame doubts to be great

says it made \$121.9 million

domestically and was No. 7 on that year's hit list. Costner tells of his persistence in getting her cast but credits Houston for an outstanding performance.

Houston died Feb. 11. She was 48. A cause of death hasn't been determined.



**AP**  
Singer Bobby Brown, left, stands outside the New Hope Baptist Church during funeral services for singer Whitney Houston in Newark, N.J., Saturday, Feb. 18, 2012.

# Celebrities honor Ali's life at Vegas gala

**LAS VEGAS** (AP)—Muhammad Ali had seven prizefights in Las Vegas, with his two losses there coming in the twilight of his legendary career. Now, dozens of heavyweight celebrities are back in Sin City to laud a lifetime in the spotlight and join the icon known as "The Greatest" in fighting neurological diseases.

Roughly 2,000 people were expected to attend a swanky gala to celebrate Ali's 70th birthday on Saturday night at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas, the site of most of boxing's major fights the past 20 years. Ali turned 70 last month, and had another celebration and fundraiser then in his home state of Kentucky.

Guests arriving on the red carpet included football great Jim Brown.

"America started with slavery and ended up with a black president," Brown said. "Muhammad Ali was a part of that... a big part."

One of Ali's daughters, Rasheda Ali, says the gala is a chance for friends, family and A-listers who look up to her father to show their respect for his life and legacy as a humanitarian. In return, she says he'll be honored to see them there.

"He has not left that need to



AP  
Leon Spinks connects with a right hook to Muhammad Ali, in this Feb. 16, 1978 file photo taken during the late rounds of their championship fight in Las Vegas, Nev.

help others," Rasheda Ali told The Associated Press. "That's one of his core values—his charity and his giving."

The gala starting at \$1,500 per plate was expected to draw some of the biggest names in entertainment and sports—including David Beckham, Anthony Hopkins, Samuel L. Jackson and Stevie Wonder, among

others. They're planning performances and tributes to a fighter who went 56-5 in the ring with 37 knockouts and became perhaps the most famous athlete ever because of his personality and willingness to publicly stand up for his beliefs.

Ali has lived with Parkinson's disease for nearly 30 years, a degenerative brain condition

that some doctors say can be brought on by punches to the head.

The gala will raise funds for the Cleveland Clinic Lou Ruvo Center for Brain Health and the Muhammad Ali Center in Louisville, Ky., a cultural attraction that celebrates Ali's life and pushes educational goals on a wide range of topics for adults and children.

Larry Ruvo, chairman of the clinic's fundraising arm, Keep Memory Alive, said he's not sure whether the fundraiser will exceed its record of \$27 million, but he hopes so.

Boxing promoter Bob Arum said during a pre-gala reception Friday night attended by celebrities including Hopkins and Larry King that Ali will go down as one of the most important Americans in history.

"Without Muhammad Ali, there wouldn't have been an Obama," he said. "There wouldn't have been a mixed-race president."

Ruvo said President Barack Obama recorded a video tribute message to Ali that would be shown during the gala.

ABC and ESPN plan to air the gala on Feb. 25.



AP  
Filmmaker Spike Lee watches from the sideline during the first half of an NBA basketball game between the New York Knicks and the New Orleans Hornets while wearing Knicks' Jeremy Lin's Palo Alto high school jersey, Friday, Feb. 17, 2012, in New York.

## Spike Lee wears Lin's high school jersey at game

**NEW YORK** (AP)—One fan at Madison Square Garden spotted a guy in a Palo Alto High School jersey and asked, "Are you Lin's high school coach?"

Just about every part of the Jeremy Lin story is making news these days.

The green No. 20 in fact belonged to a fellow former Palo Alto player, who was tasked with transporting Lin's old No. 4 jersey cross-country so it could be worn Friday night by the New York Knicks' biggest celebrity fan: Spike Lee.

The latest twist in the Lin saga started earlier this week when his high school coach in California, Peter Diepenbrock, said in an interview with a New York radio station that he hoped to put a Vikings jersey on the director's back. Turns out Lee heard about it and had one of his representatives contact Diepenbrock about making it happen.

Diepenbrock isn't sched-

uled to make it to a Knicks game until Sunday, but another of his former players, Chris Bobel, was planning to get to New York on Friday. Bobel, four years older than Lin, actually has a connection to two Knicks: He was a walk-on at Stanford, where he played with Landry Fields. Along with wearing his No. 20 from Palo Alto, Bobel also brought a Cardinal jersey.

Bobel dropped off Lin's jersey with Lee's rep after arriving in New York but couldn't quite believe it would be worn. Standing a few rows up from the court about 40 minutes before the game, he was thrilled to hear Lee had been seen earlier sporting the top.

Later, Bobel was able to meet Lee.

"This is just the coolest thing ever," Bobel said.

Bobel, who coached the Palo Alto freshman team when Lin

was an 11th grader, now works in sales for a Silicon Valley start-up, Box.com. While Lin played for the hometown Golden State Warriors last season, it bothered Bobel that fans would go wild when the rookie from Harvard made a routine play.

During Friday night's 89-85 loss to the New Orleans Hornets, which ended New York's seven-game winning streak, Bobel saw a very different scene: the Garden crowd treating Lin as the biggest of stars.

The 31-year-old entertainer was hospitalized last month after suffering from what his wife, Mariah Carey, called "mild kidney failure."

The couple became parents of twins, a son Moroccan and a daughter Monroe, last year.

Cannon said he'll continue to host his syndicated weekend show, "Cannon's Countdown." He added that he will "look forward to contributing to 92.3 NOW whenever possible."

## Nick Cannon departs NYC radio show



**NEW YORK** (AP)—Nick Cannon has stepped down from his New York City radio show.

Cannon said in a statement on the 92.3 NOW website that Friday was his last day hosting the 2-year-old show, called "Rollin'."

He said doctors had ordered him to cut back on his professional commitments and get more rest. He tweeted Friday that doctors had found blood clots in his lungs.

In a Sunday, June 26, 2011 file photo, Nick Cannon arrives at the BET Awards, in Los Angeles. Cannon said in a statement on the 92.3 NOW website that Friday, Feb. 17, 2012 was his last day hosting his New York City radio show, called "Rollin'."

The couple became parents of twins, a son Moroccan and a daughter Monroe, last year.

Cannon said he'll continue to host his syndicated weekend show, "Cannon's Countdown." He added that he will "look forward to contributing to 92.3 NOW whenever possible."

## Bonnaroo halts ticket sales after high demand

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** (AP)—Bonnaroo has halted sales for the four-day music festival during the first day of ticket sales because of overwhelming demand and technical problems.

Tickets for the 2012 Bonnaroo Music and Arts Festival were scheduled to go on sale on Saturday, but the event's organizers said on its website that they were suspending the ticket sales.

Organizers said they were trying to fix the problem and would announce by the end of Monday when tickets would go on sale again for the festival, which is held annually in June in Manchester, about 65 miles southeast of Nashville.

This year's lineup includes the reunited Beach Boys, along with Radiohead, Red Hot Chili Peppers, Phish and Bon Iver.

## Widow's heart is vulnerable to online suitor's charms

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

**DEAR ABBY:** One of my closest friends from childhood, "Penny," lost her husband of 30 years five months ago, after a short illness. We reconnected via the Internet and have become close again. It has been a blessing. Penny has moved back to California and has been to visit me a couple of times.

One of Penny's relatives signed her up on some online dating sites, and a seemingly nice man from across the country immediately contacted her with a beautiful email. She responded to him once, explaining her recent loss, and he has been courting her with extremely romantic daily emails ever since. Penny asked me for advice, and I told her that her loss is fresh and raw, and she should give herself time to grieve for her husband.

Penny has never been alone, and I know she's scared. However, I see big red flags and I'm worried about her. I advised that they should keep in casual contact, and if it's real now, it will still be real in another year. I think she needs time to heal. Should I stay out of it and mind my own business, or should I reiterate my concerns?

### CONFLICTED IN COASTAL CALIFORNIA

**DEAR CONFLICTED:** I see nothing wrong with continuing to share your thinking with your friend. You gave her good advice. Although some beautiful relationships have been formed online, this one seems to have blossomed unusually quickly.

Encourage Penny to take her time, invite him to visit eventually, and go visit him so she can meet his friends and family and get to know him better. If it turns out that remarriage is in the cards, then suggest that she contact her lawyer and have a pre-nuptial agreement in place before the wedding.

**DEAR ABBY:** We are in our late 40s and have two elementary school-age children. My husband and I are actively involved in our church and at our children's school. However, we have no friends we can just hang out with. We used to be part of a small group of friends from church, but one family had a falling out with the others. Somehow we got dragged into it, and now no one interacts with us anymore. The parents of our children's friends attend another church and have a group they're part of, but we are not.

When I was working, we could afford to have the kids in activities but there wasn't much time. Now that I am not working the time is there, but not the money. People our age have empty nests or are grandparents. We'd love to have friends, but we don't know how to resolve this.

### LEFT BEHIND IN SPARKS, NEV.

**DEAR LEFT BEHIND:** Why not invite your children's friends and their parents over? You already have something in common with them. If that doesn't work, a way to make new friends would be to sign your children up for affordable extracurricular activities such as YMCA, YWCA, Little League or Scouting. That way, you'll meet other parents with similar interests. Another alternative would be for you and your husband to join a service club so you can meet others who contribute to the community. If you give it a try you will widen your circle of acquaintances, which can lead to friendships.

**DEAR ABBY:** My husband left me after 38 years of marriage. All my adult life I have been known personally and professionally as "Mrs. Brown." Now that I'm being divorced, can I legally still be known as Mrs. Brown?

### KEEPING MY NAME

**DEAR KEEPING:** Yes. Although you will no longer be "Mrs. John Brown," you will be Mrs. JULIA Brown or Ms. Brown if you prefer.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

# Pastimes

## Calvin and Hobbes



By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®



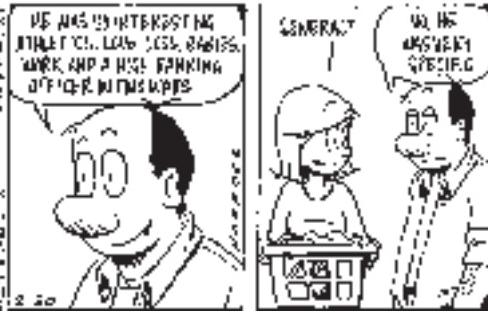
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/s/ RICHARD S. VILLAGOMEZ  
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# Tony Allen lifts Grizzlies past Warriors, 104-103



**MEMPHIS, Tenn.** (AP)—Tony Allen scored on a tip-in with 5.6 seconds left to give the Memphis Grizzlies their fourth straight victory, 104-103 victory over the Golden State Warriors on Saturday night.

Allen scored after Rudy Gay missed a shot to the right of the lane. Memphis also won off a miss from Gay on Friday night, beating Denver 103-102 on Dante Cunningham's tip.

The Warriors had one last shot after Allen's tip-in, but David Lee was called for an offensive foul with less than a second left, sending the Warriors their third straight loss.

Gay led Memphis with 19 points, and O.J. Mayo had 18. Marc Gasol added 17 points and 13 rebounds, Marreese Speights had 16 points, Mike Conley finished with 15 points and six assists, and Allen had 11 points.

Stephen Curry led the Warriors with 36 points, matching his season high. Monta Ellis finished with 33 points, and Lee had 14 points and nine rebounds. Curry and Ellis each had six assists.

The game was close throughout the fourth quarter. Memphis had a five-point lead, but that was the biggest advantage either team had in the final period.

Part of that came from Memphis missing four straight free throws while trailing or tied.

There were eight ties and nine lead changes in the fourth quarter.



Memphis Grizzlies guard Tony Allen, right, attempts a shot against New Jersey Nets center Shelden Williams during the third quarter of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2012, in Newark, N.J.

The Warriors took a 103-102 lead on Epke Udoh's two free throws with 28.1 seconds left, setting the stage for Allen's winner.

Memphis connected on its first six shots, building an 18-point lead, en route to hitting 14 of its 20 shots in the first quarter.

Curry kept the Warriors close. He connected on five of his first six shots in the second quarter, including four from long range, and, with the help of Ellis, put pressure on Memphis by open-

ing the period with a 24-8 run to erase the Grizzlies' advantage.

Golden State eventually would outscore Memphis 37-20 in the second period, helping the Warriors carry a 56-54 advantage into the halftime break.

## Nets 97, Bulls 85

In Chicago, Deron Williams scored 29 points and Kris Humphries had 24 points and 18 rebounds as struggling New Jersey beat Chicago to end an eight-game losing streak.

Chicago's Derrick Rose missed his fifth straight game because of back pain, and the Nets took advantage, jumping out to a 22-3 lead while rolling to their first victory since Feb. 1.

Williams scored 21 points in the first half and hit five 3-pointers in the game. He also had

eight assists. Humphries narrowly missed season-highs for points (25) and rebounds (19).

Carlos Boozer and Mike James each scored 16 points for Chicago.

## Trail Blazers 97, Hawks 77

In Portland, Oregon, LaMar

cus Aldridge had 19 points and 10 rebounds in his return from a left ankle injury as the Trail Blazers ended a four-game home losing streak.

Nicolas Batum had 22 points to help Portland avoid losing five straight at home since the 2005-06 season.

Joe Johnson had 19 points for Atlanta, and Josh Smith added 14 points and 10 rebounds. The Hawks have lost six of their last nine games.

## Spurs 103, Clippers 100

In Los Angeles, Gary Neal hit go-ahead 3-pointers in regulation and overtime and Tony Parker scored 30 points as the San Antonio Spurs held off the Los Angeles Clippers for their NBA-leading 10th consecutive victory.

Neal stole the ball and hit a 3-pointer to even the score with 5.7 seconds left in regulation, and his 3 with 25 seconds to go in overtime put the Spurs up 100-98.

Neal finished with 17 points. Matt Bonner added 13 points and Tim Duncan had 11 points and 17 rebounds for the Spurs, who are 6-0 on their current nine-game road trip.

Blake Griffin had 22 points and 20 rebounds, and Chris Paul and Randy Foye each scored 21 points for the Clippers.

# Klitschko unanimously outpoints Chisora



## MUNICH

(AP)—Vitali Klitschko's 10th successful defense of his WBC heavyweight title ended in chaos Saturday night when challenger Dereck Chisora brawled with former WBA champion David Haye during the post-match news conference.

Chisora taunted Haye about losing the WBA belt to Klitschko's younger brother, Vladimir, last July, leading to a heated exchange before Chisora knocked a bottle out of Haye's hand and they came to blows.

Haye also fought with members of Chisora's entourage, and his coach, Adam Booth, was left bleeding from a cut on his head.

Camera equipment went flying and reporters fled before security eventually managed to separate the men and police arrived at the scene.

"You've really lost it this time," Chisora told Haye.

The 40-year-old Klitschko beat Chisora in a bruising bout in which the Ukrainian claimed to have fought from the fourth round with only his right fist after hurting his left hand.

"I think we all heard excuses about a broken toe," Chisora later retorted, referring to Haye's loss to Vladimir Klitschko in Germany

last July.

Chisora found very little support from the sellout crowd of 12,500 after slapping Vitali Klitschko's face at the weigh-in on Friday, and ensured the ill feelings continued when he spit water in Vladimir's face as his brother's record was being called out before their bout.

"I wanted to knock him out, to be honest," Vitali Klitschko said. "Such a cheek."

Vladimir acted as a buffer as Chisora continued to goad them.

Vitali was clearly incensed, but it took some time before he could assert control against the Briton's aggressive approach. His greater reach and experience made the difference.

The judges scored it 118-110, 118-110 and 119-111.

Chisora said after the bout that he wanted a rematch, or a bout with Vladimir, who is the "super" WBA champion and the holder of the IBF and minor WBO and IBO belts. The younger Klitschko is due to fight next against Jean-Marc Mormeck of France on March 3 in Duesseldorf.

"He won't fight me again," Chisora said. "I don't blame you. I wouldn't fight me either."

Klitschko improved to 44-2 (40 KOs) after what was arguably the toughest bout he's had to endure since losing on a technical knockout to Lennox

Lewis in 2003.

The Zimbabwe-born Chisora dropped to 15-3 (nine KOs) after his third defeat in his last four fights, but he had the fans in Munich's Olympiahalle worried as Klitschko appeared to tire from his relentless attacks.

Sensing an upset, they chanted the Ukrainian's name in the seventh round before Klitschko reasserted his dominance with a series of precision blows.

Chisora was bleeding from the lip after the first round, but seemed more than capable of taking Klitschko's repeated punishment.

Klitschko eventually took control of the bout in the ninth round, catching Chisora with a huge right and seemingly picking his punches at will. Chisora was barely hanging on in the 10th.

"He tried it all, but apart from a few grazes I didn't get anything more," Klitschko said.

Chisora gave it everything he had in the 12th and final round as he sought a knockout blow, but Klitschko, knowing the work was already done, used his greater experience to safely see out the round, and maintain the brothers' dominance of the heavyweight division.

"I wanted to give him what he deserves. It didn't work out. Life is an interesting thing. Life is long. Who knows? Maybe we'll meet some other day," Klitschko said.

## NBA BRIEFS

### ESPN sorry for offensive headline on Lin story

NEW YORK (AP)—ESPN has apologized for using a racial slur in a headline for a story on Knicks sensation Jeremy Lin. ESPN ran the headline "Chink in the Armor" after Lin had nine turnovers in New York's loss to the New Orleans Hornets on Friday night on its mobile website that could be seen on phones and tablet computers. Lin is the NBA's first American-born player of Chinese or Taiwanese descent. He has captivated sports fans with unexpected dominance on the court that sparked a seven-game winning streak. ESPN says in a statement Saturday it removed the headline 35 minutes after it was posted. The cable network says it is "conducting a complete review of our cross-platform editorial procedures and are determining appropriate disciplinary action to ensure this does not happen again. We regret and apologize for this mistake." The story was first reported by Outsports.com.

### Carmelo likely out for Knicks vs Mavs, but Smith, Davis could play

GREENBURGH, N.Y. (AP)—Carmelo Anthony is unlikely to

play Sunday against Dallas, but J.R. Smith and Baron Davis could be in uniform as the New York Knicks move closer to getting to full strength. Anthony has missed six straight games with a strained right groin and coach Mike D'Antoni said Saturday it is more likely the All-Star forward returns Monday night against New Jersey. But Smith and Davis have outside chances to make their Knicks debuts. The Knicks signed Smith on Friday and D'Antoni said his preference is not to play him before he's had a chance to practice, but the shooting guard is in shape after playing in China, so D'Antoni said the team "will see what happens." Davis has been recovering from a herniated disk in his back. He took part in a 3-on-3 workout Saturday, and has regained his conditioning after having to shut it down late last month following an infection in his elbow. "He's close. He could go, I think he could play tomorrow," D'Antoni said. "We'll see, but I want to work him a little bit gradually." So it seems likely Davis will play sometime before next weekend's All-Star break. The Knicks host Atlanta on Wednesday before visiting

Miami on Thursday. "I hope so. Yeah, I am expecting to do that," Davis said. "Just to get out there and see where I am." Once those three are back, the Knicks' only absence will be rookie Josh Harrellson, who will return from a fractured right wrist after the break. "We'll have everybody here pretty soon," D'Antoni said.

### Nets' Lopez to make season debut against Bucks

CHICAGO (AP)—New Jersey Nets center Brook Lopez is poised to return from a broken right foot. Coach Avery Johnson says Lopez will start Sunday against Milwaukee after missing the first 32 games because of a broken right foot. Getting Lopez back should boost a team that had lost eight straight before facing the league-leading Chicago Bulls on Saturday. The Nets' leading scorer last season at 20.4 points per game, Lopez was injured in the pre-season against the New York Knicks. Johnson says Lopez went through an "extensive" workout Friday and responded well. The plan is for Lopez to sit out Monday's game against New York and play Wednesday against Orlando.

Camera equipment went flying and reporters fled before security eventually managed to separate the men and police arrived at the scene.

"You've really lost it this time," Chisora told Haye.

The 40-year-old Klitschko beat Chisora in a bruising bout in which the Ukrainian claimed to have fought from the fourth round with only his right fist after hurting his left hand.

"I think we all heard excuses about a broken toe," Chisora later retorted, referring to Haye's loss to Vladimir Klitschko in Germany

# Red Sox' Wakefield retires after 19 years



Boston Red Sox pitcher Tim Wakefield walks by a jumbotron displaying a dedication to him after announcing his retirement during a news conference at the Red Sox's baseball spring training complex Friday, Feb. 17, 2012, in Fort Myers, Fla.

**FORT MYERS, Fla.** (AP)—Tim Wakefield has never been afraid to face a hitter with his knuckleball, kind of like he's never been afraid to face the truth.

After all, he pitched in parts of three decades, won 200 games along the way, was a part of two World Series titles, and, above all else, he realizes just how precious baseball careers can be.

So, with all that—as well as a ton of memories garnered over 19 years in the majors, the last 17 with the Boston Red Sox—an emotional Wakefield, 45, announced his retirement Friday.

"Now," he said, "I'll have a lot of time to really reflect on all of the accomplishments I have been able to do."

That he played for so long seemed unlikely early in his career. Drafted as a first baseman by the Pirates in 1988, Wakefield was converted to a knuckleballer after just two seasons. But in April 1995, after going 5-15 with a 5.84 in Triple A, Pittsburgh released him.

The Red Sox pounced, signing him just six days later. And somehow, he raced out to an improbable 14-1 start with Boston, finishing 1995 at 16-8 with a 2.95 ERA.

Now, all these years later, he has to admit: His long career surprised even him.

"A little bit," Wakefield said. "There were some years there where I didn't know if I was going to come back or not. But I'm

very grateful that I've been able to put this uniform on for such a long time, and win two World Series for this great city.

"Now, I can finally say it's over."

It wasn't an easy decision, though. Especially after he was offered a minor league contract with a chance to come into Red Sox spring training and compete for a job.

"I've been wrestling with this decision a long time, this whole offseason," he said. "I think the final deciding point was when (my wife) Stacy and I sat my two kids down and asked them what they wanted me to do. Like I said before, I never wanted to regret missing any part of their life, and I just think the time is now."

The decision helps the team avoid the potentially awkward situation of having a veteran player, and fan favorite, compete for and perhaps lose a roster spot.

"It's a unique situation, where you sort of put the ball in his court whether to come into that type of situation. And frankly, we just wouldn't do it in most cases," Red Sox general manager Ben Cherington said.

"For a guy like Wake, who has accomplished as much as he has, I think that could have been a challenge to be in camp without a little more definition as to the role."

"And Tim and I had conversations about that. I don't know if that factored in at all. That's something you'd have to ask

Tim, but I could see that being a challenge potentially."

Wakefield is the third-winningest pitcher in Red Sox history, at 186-168. Cy Young and Roger Clemens both have 192 wins.

As the oldest player in the majors last season, he was 7-8 with a 5.12 ERA last season in 23 starts and 10 relief appearances.

"I'm still a competitor, but ultimately I think this is what's best for the Red Sox," Wakefield said. "I think this is what's best for my family. And to be honest with you, seven wins isn't going to make me a different person or a better man. So, my family really needs me at home."

Several Red Sox were in attendance at the press conference at Jet Blue Park, the Red Sox new spring training home.

"I was happy to see that he did it the way he wanted to," starter Jon Lester said. "I don't think you can ask for anything more than that."

Lester's locker has been next to Wakefield's since Lester broke into the majors in 2006.

"To be honest with you, he was tough," Lester said of his first impressions of Wakefield. "He's probably one of the tougher veterans that we had when I first came up and that's not a bad thing. I think he did a good job of being a tough leader and making sure that he was vocally present."

"He made sure I stayed in line and did the right things both on and off the field. So I'm grateful

for that. I'm grateful for the fact that I got to be a teammate of his, and see him do a lot of great things for this organization both on and off the field. His charitable work is unbelievable."

Wakefield is well known for his charity endeavors. He has established community service work in his hometown of Melbourne, Fla., as well as in Boston.

Cleveland starter Derek Lowe, who lives in Fort Myers, was a teammate of Wakefield for eight seasons. In Lowe's last year in Boston—2004—the two helped the Red Sox to their first World Series crown in 86 years.

"He led by example," Lowe said. "He was a guy you could look up to, a guy you could talk to."

Wakefield finished his Red Sox career with a 4.43 ERA. He is first in team history with 3,006 innings and 430 starts, and second in games and strikeouts. For his career, Wakefield was 200-180 with a 4.41 ERA.

On Sept. 13, Wakefield earned his 200th win on his eighth try, in an 18-6 rout of the Toronto Blue Jays at Fenway Park. Wakefield went six innings and overcame a shaky outing to retire his final six batters. He left with a 6-5 lead after allowing six hits and two walks. He struck out two.

The following day, prior to a matinee game with Toronto, he was honored for his accomplishment.

It turned out to be his last victory.

## Mickelson takes wild ride into share of the lead

**LOS ANGELES** (AP)—Phil Mickelson hit one tree, threaded a shot through five trees and hit a drive that wound up in a spectator's shorts. He somehow managed a 1-under 70 on Saturday to share the lead with PGA champion Keegan Bradley in the Northern Trust Open.

Bradley, inspired by a Riviera course that is one of his favorites, took only five putts over the final five holes, including a 10-footer for par on the last hole, for a 5-under 66 that assured him being in the final group.

The par was meaningful because he wanted to play Sunday with Mickelson, a mentor to him.

There's no telling what to expect in the final round. The phrase "routine par" was not part of Mickelson's vocabulary on a beautiful afternoon off Sunset Boulevard.

Mickelson played one chip well past the hole on the par-3 sixth so it would roll off the bank some 25 feet behind the cup and roll back. He made a 12-footer for his par.

The only disappointment was not taking advantage of enough birdie chances, twice missing birdie putts inside 8 feet and failing to give himself a good look on the par-5 17th when his wedge rolled off the front of the green.

Mickelson and Bradley were at 7-under 206, though this is hardly a two-man race at Riviera.

A dozen players were within four shots of the lead going into the final round, including defending champion Aaron Baddeley (66), Dustin Johnson (67) and FedEx Cup champion Bill Haas (68).

Johnson was tied for the lead until he botched the end of his round. He made bogey from the bunker on the 16th, then three-putted for bogey from just outside 3 feet on the 17th. He finished with a birdie and a small measure of redemption.

"I'm going to come out tomorrow and give it everything I've got," Johnson said.

Pat Perez still has a shot, too. He three-putted from 10 feet for bogey on the third hole, then took four putts on the next hole. His long birdie try from 60 feet on the fringe came up 5 feet short, and Perez took three more putts from there.

But he kept his patience, made a few birdies and shot 70. Perez was in the group one shot out of the lead along with Jonathan Byrd, who had a 69, and Bryce Molder, who one-putted his last eight greens for a 66.

Bradley surged into a share of the lead with an 8-foot birdie on the 16th, and a pitch

to tap-in range on the next hole. From the right rough, he came up short of the 18th and chipped to 10 feet to set up the important closing par.

"That's kind of why I was excited to make that putt on the last hole. I figured that might be to get in the final group with Phil," he said.

Bradley always has looked up to Mickelson, and the four-time major champion invited him to play in one of his money games at The Players Championship. The idea is for young players to learn to play under pressure, and it paid off for Bradley when he captured the PGA Championship at the end of the year.

They have played together in a tournament only once, the opening two rounds of The Barclays.

"Nothing like this would be," Bradley said.

There was a stretch where Mickelson lived up to his "Phil the Thrill" reputation at Riviera.

He pulled his tee shot so far right on the par-3 sixth that it was headed for the ivy-covered fence until clipping a tree and dropping down. Then, instead of hitting a lofted chip that could run to the pin, he chose to chip some 25 feet past the hole, have it run up the bank and come down. It rolled 12 feet past the hole, and he made it for a par.

On the par-4 eighth, which gives players the option of two fairways, Mickelson found his own route. He blasted a tee shot so far left it went over a white fence and landed at the base of the stairs of a corporate tent. After getting a free drop, he threaded a 9-iron through five eucalyptus trees to 12 feet.

It would have been one of the more amazing birdies in his career, except he missed the putt.

He was introduced to a Bot- tle Brush on the 10th. That was the name of the tree between the pin and where his tee shot landed. Mickelson caught a tiny branch and didn't reach the green, but hit a skillful pitch to 3 feet for par.

And on the 15th, Mickelson blocked a tee shot into the gallery and discovered a man lying on his back, fearful of moving. The ball landed inside the hem of his shorts, and he remained still until Mickelson could remove the ball and take his free drop. He managed another par.

Haas birdied two of his last three holes and was in the group at 5-under 208, along with Johnson and Baddeley.

"I'm in a good position for tomorrow," Haas said. "I don't know what the leaders are going to do, but I'll be in striking distance."

# SCS saves second win in DLX/Miller Lite caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



SCS Heavy Equipment Rental notched its second win in as many games in the 2nd Domino Lux International Fraternity/Miller Lite Basketball Invitational Friendship League after edging Hite Beer/Blue Haus last Friday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

SCS, which won its opening game against the Navy Hill Gunners last Monday, 83-62, canned crucial free throws in the homestretch to prevail in the low-scoring game and hold the early lead in the 10-team league.

Nine of SCS' last 11 points came from the 15-foot line with Jack Lizama drilling four charities, Bon Tamayo and Glenn Aquino hitting two apiece, and Manolo Manalo having a split.

Lizama, who missed their debut game, top-scored for SCS with 20, while Tamayo and

Aquino also finished in double digits with 17 and 10 markers, respectively.

Zack Babauta led Hite with 17, while Ivan Devero and Alex Lauron chipped in 11 and 10, respectively. The loss to SCS was only the first for Hite, as its opening game of the season against Crystal Pure/Mekeni last Monday was rained-out at halftime with the latter ahead, 28-25.

The Hite-SCS tiff was close from start to finish with the latter only up by a hair after the first period, 16-15. Tamayo and Lizama teamed up for SCS in the opening canto, combining for 14 points, while Devero and Lauron kept Hite in the game with their four markers each.

Both teams slowed down in the second quarter, but SCS managed to stretch the lead to four, 26-22, when it held Hite to only three field goals for seven points.

Then after the break, Zack Babauta, who was held to one free throw in the second, came

back with nine markers in the third to keep Hite afloat. Despite the hot shooting of Tamayo and six straight points of Aquino early in the quarter, SCS's lead was again down to one, 44-43, after Babauta's explosion and Lauron and Devero's contributions. Lizama saw limited minutes for SCS in the third due to foul trouble.

In the fourth quarter, Lizama reported back for duty and saved the day for SCS, nailing nine of his total points in the payoff period.

## Smart Cagers 82, QQ Rent A Car 79

In the first game, Smart Cagers bounced back from their debut loss to Mobil Smiles (72-79) after slipping past QQ Rent A Car.

Edwin Santos top-scored in Smart Cagers win with 17, but Pete Iguel and Errol Peredo were the ones who bailed the team out of trouble in the fourth quarter. Iguel scored six of Smart Cagers last eight points, while Peredo logged seven

straight markers midway in the final canto to grab the driver's set. Peredo finished with 16, while Iguel had 14, 10 of them came in the fourth period.

Smart Cagers were behind at the end of the third, 66-58, when Iguel and Peredo teamed up in the recovery and stole the win. They combined for 17 of Smart Cagers' 24 points and outgunned the entire QQ Rent A Car crew, who was held to 12 points in the final frame.

## First Game

**Smart Cagers 82 – Santos 17, Peredo 16, Iguel 14, De Dios 11, Aughenbaugh 4, Sacramento 3, Dayrit 3, Gamboa 3, Usi 3.**

**QQ Rent A Car 79 – Mangali 20, Sison 17, Pagarao 14, Montes 10, Paraiso 7, Camacho 7, Bahillo 3.**

**Scoring by quarters:** 25-21, 39-42, 58-66, 82-79.

## Second Game

**SCS HE Rental 60 – Lizama 20, Tamayo 17, Aquino 10,**

Galarce 6, Manalo Ritual 2, Tobiias 2.

**Hite Beer/Blue Haus 57 – Z. Babauta 17, Devero 11, Lau-**

ron 10, Tenorio 5, Lisua 4, R. Babauta 4, Palacios 2, Park 2.

**Scoring by quarters:** 16-15, 26-22, 44-43, 60-57.

## GECKOS

*From Page 28*

Both teams started slow and only managed a basket apiece in the opening 10 minutes, before GCA got its engine started in the second quarter and built an 11-7 advantage at the half.

Dongha Lee did most of the damage for the Eagles, scoring five points in the first half.

The Geckos and Eagles then traded blows in the third quarter with Lee still finding his mark and adding six more points to give GCA a 26-15 lead, heading into the final period.

After being held to just three points in the first half, SIS' Chris Cepeda showed signs of heating up in the third quarter and led the Geckos' fourth-quarter attack. He tallied eight points in the fourth period to go with

Fen Xuan Lin's six markers, as SIS had its biggest output in the payoff canto with 17 markers against GCA's none.

The Eagles had plenty of looks at the basket, but simply could not get their shots to fall.

Cepeda led the Geckos' first win with a dozen marker, while Lee scrambled for 11 in defeat.

The season continues on Wednesday with SIS challenging Saipan Southern High School's junior Mantas Rays (3-2) at 4pm, and MHS Dolphins (4-1) taking on the Mount Carmel School Knights (0-7) at 5:30pm.

**SIS 32 – Cepeda 12, Lin 8, J. Kim 6, Johnson 2, M. Kim 2, Y. Kim 2.**

**GCA 26 – Lee 11, Reyes 7, Libut 4, Smithee 2 Sugue 2.**

**Scoring by quarters:** 2-2, 7-11, 15-26, 32-26.

## 10 TAKE

*From Page 28*

pairing, 8-2. The Park-Lizama title showdown will be played at 11am.

Dela Cruz and Eda also collide in the finals today at 11am for the boys U15 crown after winning over Tommy Choi, 8-5, and Morris Villanueva, 8-4, respectively. Villanueva and Choi play in the battle for third place at 12pm.

In the boys U18 finals, two lower-ranked players square off

for the championship. The third-seeded Miller, who stunned top-ranked Rafael Jones in the semis, 8-2, faces the No. 5 Sakano, who also pulled off an upset over second seed Daniel Park, 8-4. Sakano and Miller dispute the U18 crown today at 9am, the same time Jones and Park duel for the third spot.

In other games, Mikayla Lopez was scheduled to meet Negahr Rastguyi in the women's singles semis yesterday afternoon, while Sakiko Eda was to challenge Jodel Fernandez in

the other Final Four pairing.

The Final Four round of the boys U10 was also set to be played yesterday with top seed Cole Chambers battling Robbie Schorr and Aditya Rai squaring off against Tony Atalig.

In other semis pairings, Malika Miyawaki was slated to face Catherine Atalig and Gillian Villagomez was set to duel Mimi Sakano in the girls U10 singles. Results of these matches along with the round-robin competitions in the girls U18 and U15 were unavailable at

press time.

Meanwhile, seven of the eight quarterfinals berths in the mixed-up doubles were taken last Saturday. Making it to the Round of 8 were the tandems of Jeff Race and Michael Ren, Daniel Park and Steven Goodwin, Nakajima and Isabel Heras, Ken Imaya and Julia Ishikawa, Raj Rai, and Adela Hudkins, Alex Park and Steve Nutting, and Emily Jones and Dela Cruz. The quarterfinal round was played yesterday, but results were unavailable at press time.

through exercise.

Running has long been embedded as a part of Chuukese tradition. A number of athletes from Chuuk have well represented the CNMI in the past off-island competitions. The list includes Jack Kabiriel and Tony Ichio, who helped organize the event with CNMI national team coaches Elias Rangamar and Robin Sapong.

Notably, Kabiriel and Ichio also used the event to look for Chuukese runners who will

compete in the Chuuk Track and Field Day event in Guam later this year.

ACA president Romino Saimon attended the competition and expressed his deep thanks to the Department of Youth Services, Rep. Ramon A. Tebuteb, IT&E, McDonald's, the CNMI national track team, Rangamar, and Sapong for helping make the event a big success. ACA hopes to make the track meet that attracted hundreds of participants an annual event.

remarks. The group thanked everyone for coming out and reminded the crowd that bringing families closer together is part of what the youth program is all about.

CNMI District Administrator James Ada was also in attendance and provided the closing remarks.

Ada then presented SLLBI vice president Ray Yumul with the SLLBI official charter, which was approved last week. He also announced that umpires James Miwata and Michael Muna were selected to represent the CNMI in the Little League World Series' junior and senior league tournaments later this August.

The opening was then capped with the ceremonial first pitch with Inos doing the honors.

P. DL Guerrero Kagman Lions made up the field.

Marianas Cable Vision-Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Rep. Frederick P. DL Guerrero Kagman Lions, the IT&E Fielders, the D-9ers, Saipan Shipping Compnay Jets II, DPS Dare Enforcers, Docomo Pacific Ol'Aces, and the Natibu Falcons are entered in the Senior League, while the five-team Big League field has the Docomo Ol'Aces, Paradise Island Animal Hospital Hustlers, the IT&E Fielders, the Sen. Ralph DLG Torres, Rep. Ramon S. Basa-Rep. Frederick P. DL Guerrero Kagman Lions, and the St. Michael's Medical Response Hunters.

Details of last weekend's matchups will be released this week.

## TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

### NBA STANDINGS

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

##### Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	20	11	.645	—
Boston	15	14	.517	4
New York	15	16	.484	5
New Jersey	9	23	.281	11 1/2
Toronto	9	23	.281	11 1/2

##### Southeast Division

Miami	24	7	.774	—
Orlando	20	11	.645	4
Atlanta	19	12	.613	5
Washington	7	24	.226	17
Charlotte	4	26	.133	19 1/2

##### Central Division

Chicago	25	8	.758	—
Indiana	18	12	.600	5 1/2
Milwaukee	12	18	.400	11 1/2
Cleveland	11	17	.393	11 1/2
Detroit	10	22	.313	14 1/2

##### WESTERN CONFERENCE

###### Southwest Division

San Antonio	22	9	.710	—
Dallas	20	11	.645	2
Memphis	18	14	.563	4 1/2
Houston	17	14	.548	5
New Orleans	7	23	.233	14 1/2

###### Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	23	7	.767	—
Denver	17	14	.548	6 1/2
Portland	17	15	.531	7
Utah	15	14	.517	7 1/2
Minnesota	15	16	.484	8 1/2

###### Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	19	10	.
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# Weekend Sports

The week ended with Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association honoring the top performers for last season during the NMASA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel.

Heading the list of awardees were 2011 Athletes of the Year Yvonne Bennett and Joshua Jones and 2011 TSL Foundation/Student Athletes of the Year Rachel Abrams and Rafael Jones. Joining them are

## NMASA awardees in spotlight

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Coach of the Year Tony Rogolifo, Administrator of the Year Rose Igital, and Team of the Year the CNMI Baseball Team. Completing the list is 2011 CNMI Hall of Fame inductee Vicente Saures.

Other notable events last week included on-going

and annual competitions on Saipan.

In the MISO soccer, the MHS Lady Dolphins swept the regular season, while Saipan International School and Grace Christian Academy led the girls volleyball with similar 11-1 records.

In the MISO boys caging, GCA won over Mt. Carmel School, which also lost to Kagman High School.

Still in basketball, the DLX/Miller Lite caging kicked off with defending champion Blue Haus and Mobil Smiles winning the opening games.

In tennis, the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic featured competitions in the girls and boys U10, U12, U15, and U18 divisions, men's and women's singles, and the unique mixed-up doubles. Week 1 drew over 100 players.

In cycling, more than 70 bik-

ers joined the 2012 Northern Passage with Butch Sublemente leading the winners list, beating Brian Morris and Lewie Tenorio in the MTB championship course division.

In beach volleyball, Toni Yamada and Charnessa Lizama ruled the women's division of the 4th Annual For the Love of Volleyball doubles tournament at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's sand courts, while Tyce Mister and Nick Gross reigned supreme in the men's side.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The monthly female student awardees pose with their certificates during the 2011 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel last Thursday. From left, Negahr Rastgui, Angel Marie Tan, Mikayla Lopez, and Rachel Abrams.



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

A Saipan International School player pops up the ball to a teammate during last week's MISO girls volleyball match at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Saipan Southern High School's Mikky Vargas dribbles in last week's MISO girls soccer match against Marianas High School at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Ken Songs receives a shot from Cole Chambers during their boys U10 singles game in Week 1 of the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
Ami Tsukagoshi makes a baseline return during her and Abe Malai's mixed-up doubles game against Primo Po and Haruya Eda in Week 1 of the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mobil Smiles' Angelo Fernando pulls up for a one hander against Blue Haus' Badong Camacho during their game in the DLX/Miller Lite caging last week at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The monthly male student awardees pose with their certificates during the 2011 NMASA Annual Sports Banquet at the Seaside Hall of the Saipan Grand Hotel last Thursday. From left, Beo Ngirchongor, Marion McKenzie, Rafael Jones, Jahn Joyner, Christian Miller, and Kensuke Kimura.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Bikers head up to Marianas Country Club road during last week's 2012 Northern Passage.

**TSL SPORTS COMPLEX**

**NMBA**  
NORTHERN MARIANAS BASEBALL ASSOCIATION

8:00 AM to 12:00 PM  
(Morning practices)

6:30 PM to 9:30 PM  
(Evening practices)

**Gillette**  
MULTIPURPOSE GYMNASIUM

There are no scheduled events.

**SAIPAN SOCCER SCHOOL**

**2012 Men's B Futsal League**

There are no scheduled events.

### Activity Schedule for February 20, 2012

**Tony Allen lifts Grizzlies past Warriors, 104-103**  
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# Saipan Tribune Sports

**Red Sox' Wakefield retires after 19 years**  
PAGE 25



**28** MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2012

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## 10 get finals berths in Coconut Classic

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER

Ten players had already secured finals seats in the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic after last Saturday's games at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

In the tough men's singles division, CNMI coach Jeff Race advanced to the finals against 2010 Micronesian Games teammate Bobby Cruz. The two veteran players duel for the championship today at 12pm at the AMP courts. Race, who defeated Jake Lee in Week 1, 8-1, downed student Christian Miller in the semifinals last Saturday, 8-4, to notch the first finals ticket. Cruz followed suit, whipping Rafael Jones in the other semis pairing later Saturday afternoon. Cruz and Jones marched into the semis after prevailing over Amami Sakano, 8-1, and Raj Rai, 8-4, respectively in Week 1.

In the juniors singles, the finalists were boys U12's Luther Lizama and Alex Park, boys U15's Carl Dela Cruz and Seiya Eda, boys U18's Sakano and Miller, and girls U12's Carol Lee and Isabel Heras.

Lee barged into the finals after ousting Sakura Imaya in the upper bracket semis last Saturday, 8-3. Heras won the lower bracket semis against Julia Ishikawa, 8-2. The girls U12 finals will also be played today at 12pm, while Imaya and Ishikawa will battle in the consolation game at 11am.

In the boys U12, Lizama pulled off an 8-5 semis win over Clayton Izuka to arrange a finals tiff against Park, who eliminated Michael Jones in the other semis

**See 10 TAKE on Page 26**

Catherine Atalig serves during her and Rafael Jones mixed-up doubles game against Jeff Race and Michael Ren in the 2012 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Saturday at the AMP tennis courts.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



## Faichuu edges Fanapi in track meet



Members of Team Faichuu flash the No. 1 sign after winning the Ach Chuukese Association's 2012 CNMI/Chuukese Championship track meet held last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

 Team Faichuu took the top honors in the inaugural Ach Chuukese Association's CNMI/Chuukese Championship track meet held at the Oleai Sports Complex last Saturday.

The event was formatted in three male and female age divisions: Semint, or U14 kids class; Sarafu for ages 15 to 23; and the open division open to all ages. Organizers recorded the results of the different events and declared the winning team based on a pre-determined point system.

Faichuu finished the series of events with a total of 460

**See FAICHUU on Page 26**

## 33 teams join Little League opening

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER



Aside from a minor rain delay on Saturday morning, Saipan Little League Baseball Inc.'s 2012 season was sanctified with a well-received opening ceremony followed by a

handful of games.

The ceremony took place at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield after about an hour delay as Department of Community and Cultural Affairs staff scrambled to try and doctor the muddy infield. After the foul lines were drawn in with the batter's box, all 33

**See 33 TEAMS on Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
Acting governor Eloy S. Inos throws the ceremonial first pitch during the 2012 season opening of the Saipan Little League, Inc. last Saturday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

## Geckos break into win column

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
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REPORTER

 The Saipan International School Geckos finally got their taste of victory, following a come-from-behind

32-26 win against Grace Christian Academy in the junior varsity division of the 2011-2012 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Boys Basketball League last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

**See GECKOS on Page 26**



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND  
Saipan International School's Fen Xuan Lin goes up for a shot against Grace Christian Academy defenders during their junior varsity game in the MISO caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.